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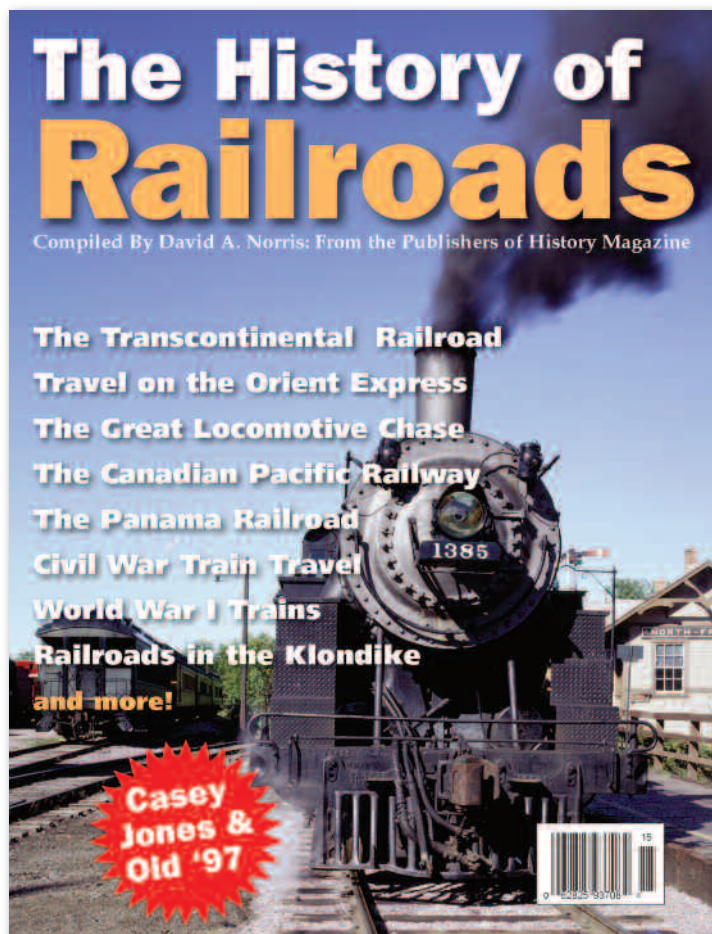
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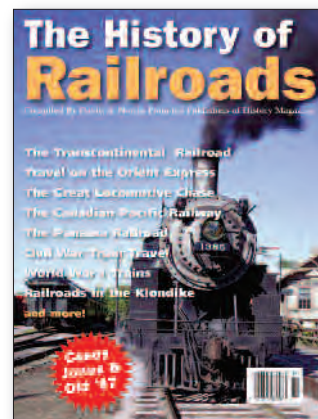
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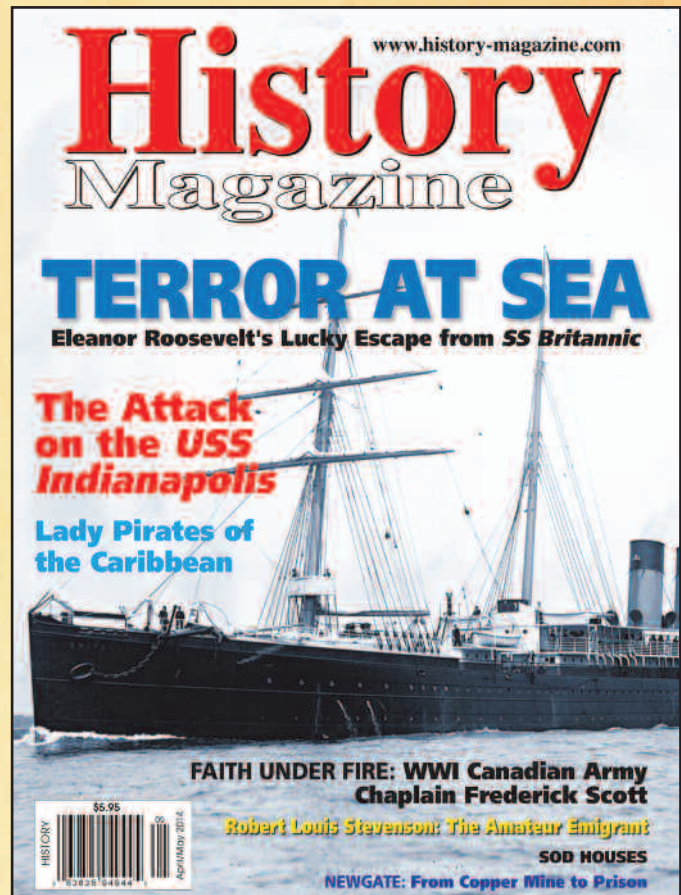
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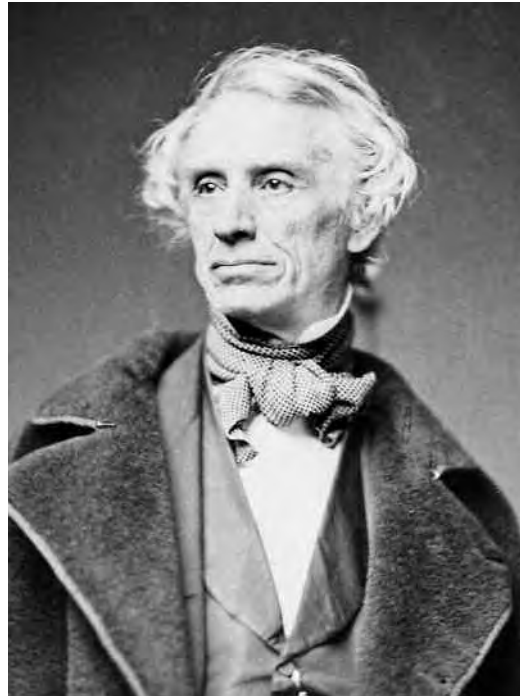
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The Town Destroyer — Page 8



The Art of Samuel F.B. Morse — Page 16



America's Orphan Trains — Page 22

History Magazine

CONTENTS AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015

Opening Notes 6

Renaissance Teeth, The Chuck Wagon

The Town Destroyer 8

Don Hollway follows George Washington's army on its 1779 invasion of New York and the Battle of Newtown

The Art of Samuel F.B. Morse 16

William Floyd Jr. examines the life of the accomplished painter and inventor of the telegraph

Taylor Gordon: "Negro Singer Who Put Montana on the Map" 19

Brian D'Ambrosio explores the life of a man who became a vibrant figure in the "Harlem Renaissance"

America's Orphan Trains 22

Clark Kidder examines a primitive social experiment that resulted in orphaned and neglected children being sent across the United States

On the Cover: In this 1835 lithograph by Henry Corbould, based on a painting by Charles Bird King, Seneca chief Red Jacket, a key participant in the Battle of Newtown, wears a peace medal eventually presented to him by George Washington. (Public domain)



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The War of Jenkins' Ear — Page 31



First Blood at Mulhouse — Page 36



Laudanum — Page 49



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on page 30 of this issue.

The War of Jenkins' Ear 31

David A. Norris examines a tumultuous period in 18th century Spanish-English relations

First Blood at Mulhouse..... 36

In an excerpt from his book, *Imperial Germany's "Iron Regiment" of the First World War*, John K. Rieth offers some insight into the opening battle of World War I

It's All in the Cards!..... 42

Gloria Tietgens Sladek deals the low-down on the history and popularity of playing cards

Harvey "Panned for Gold and Struck it Rich" 45

Dorothy Rieke looks at the life of famed newscaster Paul Harvey

Laudanum: The Wondrous Remedy 49

Melody Amsel-Arieli looks at the history of the use of Laudanum down through the ages

Hindsight 53

A look at a selection of books and other media that you might want to explore

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THE CHUCK WAGON

Beyond his horse, his saddle and his bedroll, the chuck wagon was home on the range for America's nineteenth century cowboy working on the trail.

In the years following the Civil War, massive herds of cattle were moved from Texas to markets in the Midwest. Trail bosses competed to recruit cowboys, who had to rely on whatever foodstuffs could be carried in their saddlebags. In 1866, legendary Texas cattleman Charles Goodnight, realizing an opportunity to entice the best of the hard-working cowboys with the promise of providing hearty trail meals, created what became known as the chuck wagon. He rebuilt a Civil War army surplus Studebaker wagon into a well-organized food station that could travel with his crew for several months over rugged terrain.

The distinctive feature of Goodnight's wagon was the sloping chuck box bolted onto the rear of the wagon. Containing numerous compartments and drawers, it had a hinged door that opened down from the top. Supported by one or two folding legs, it provided the cook a work table with all his utensils in easy reach. Beneath the chuck box was a cabinet for storing the cast iron Dutch ovens in which most meals were cooked, also skillets, pots and pans and the three-gallon enamelware coffee pot. A large wooden water barrel was mounted on



Camp wagon on a Texas roundup, 1900. *Library of Congress*

the wagon side, along with assorted shovels, axes and the coffee grinder.

The chuck wagon bed, protected by waterproof canvas stretched over rounded bows,

RENAISSANCE TEETH: GOLD AND BLACK

It is a time remembered for its advances in the arts and sciences. Names like Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Shakespeare are quickly recalled. Dentistry is often not associated with this time in history. However, it was very important for persons living during this time. People suffering from poor dental hygiene, but desperate to see one of Shakespeare's plays, would buy eucalyptus leaves to freshen their breath. It was believed that one of the ways a person could spread the plague was with foul smelling breath. Plays were often shut down due to fear of the plague. It was hard to tell if someone just had halitosis, tooth rot or an early warning sign of a much more dangerous disease.

The upper class could afford to have cavities removed by barber surgeons who were considered a higher-ranking class of barber. The French Guild of Barbers was established in 1210 and the competition between skilled and unskilled barbers skyrocketed through several centuries. In France during the 1400s, a series of royal decrees banned regular barbers from performing surgical procedures except for bleeding, cupping, leeching, and extracting teeth. They were still allowed to perform mundane barber tasks such as shaving whiskers. The process of the higher skilled barber surgeon involved scraping away areas of decay with small chisels, knives or files, and then filling the space with



Medieval dentist removing a tooth, possibly early 1600s. *Public domain*

carried bulk foods and the cowboys' bedrolls and other personal effects. Drawn by oxen or mules, the wagon traveled ahead of the herd. A cowhide or piece of leather, the "possum belly", hung underneath it to carry firewood or dry cow chips collected along the trail.

The main components of cattle drive fare, or "chuck" as the cowboys called it, were "Pecos strawberries" (beans), "chuck wagon chicken" (bacon), "sourdough bullets" (biscuits), "son of a bitch" (beef stew) and strong black coffee. On special occasions, the cook might present a cobbler or dried fruit pie.

Strict rules of etiquette were maintained around the chuck wagon. The cook, often dubbed "cookie", was second in command only to the trail boss. Usually an

older or injured ex-cowboy, he was paid twice as much as the cowboys and his authority was unquestioned. Often ill-tempered due to his never-ending work and lack of sleep, it was his challenge to feed the hungry cowboys every day for weeks on end. Cookie also functioned as dentist, doctor, barber, banker and handyman, all the while commanding absolute respect in his domain.

The chuck wagon was the true headquarters for the cattle drives, serving as both eating center and social hub. Here, the cowboys savored their hot meals and steaming coffee and close by, gathered around the crackling fire, shared their "windies" or tall tales, sang their cowboy ballads and slept hard in their home on the range. *HM*

— *Cindy Irvine*

gold leaf. It was recommended to cleanse the tooth with acid before applying the gold leaves. This procedure became widespread during the Renaissance. Gold leaf was used in some of the most valued artwork of the time, such as Michelangelo's religious paintings in the Sistine Chapel. Gold fillings were associated with art as they became a symbol of health and wealth. But this gold would soon be threatened by a new kind of gold.

Despite the exorbitant cost of refined sugar, it became a highly prized commodity for royalty and the wealthy. Its value was so great that it was called White Gold. It was given as gifts. One king received a box of rose-colored sugar and it is recorded that, during Christmas, Queen Isabella gave boxes of White Gold to her daughters. As their consumption increased, so did their dental

disease. Blackened teeth began to be viewed as envious markers of excess. Demand for a darker colored filling material grew and soon lead fillings were replacing gold ones. Black teeth became a fashionable status symbol so desirable that some people would paint their teeth black to appear as if having a higher social standing.

Much mystery has surrounded a closed smile of one of the most famous paintings from the time, da Vinci's Mona Lisa, regarding whether or not she is truly smiling. Evidence suggests that she suffered from severe enamel staining and resorted to using cuttlefish bone as well as pumice to remove the stains. She also used a common toothpaste made of brick dust, china fragments and ground cattle hooves. Perhaps it is for the best that he decided to keep her lips shut. *HM*

— *Jennifer Nevers*

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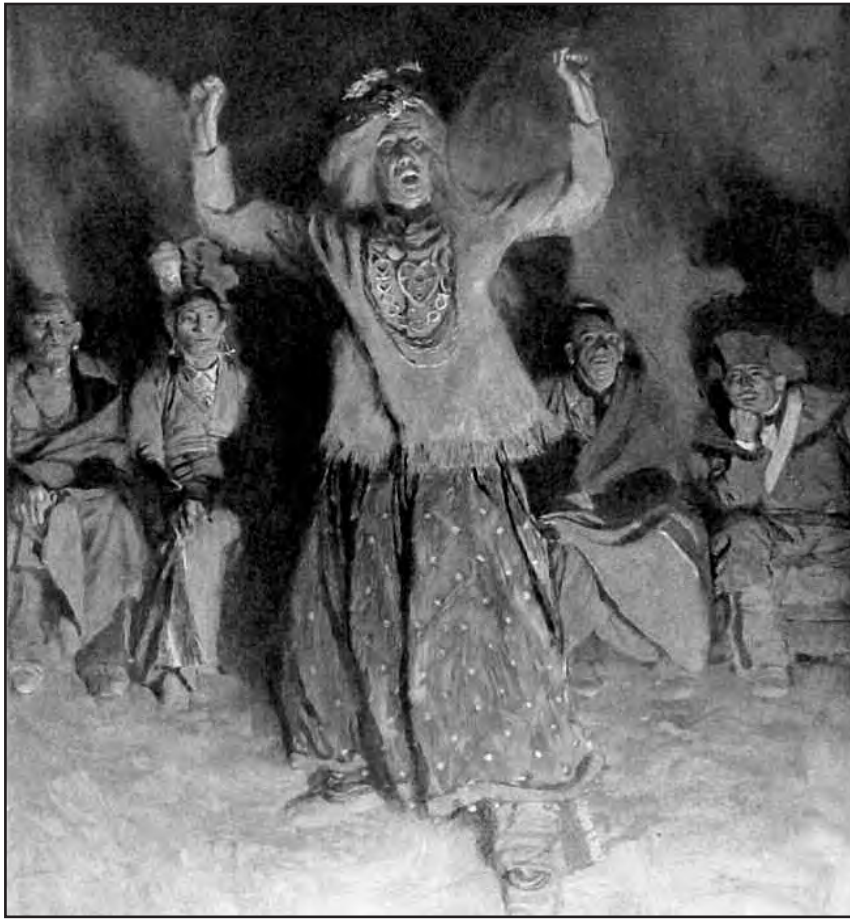
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After the death of her son at Yankee hands, “Queen Esther” Montour whipped the Iroquois into a bloody frenzy at the Battle of Wyoming. Joseph Brant at left, Col. John Butler at right. Illustration by Howard Pyle. *Public domain*

THE TOWN DESTROYER

DON HOLLWAY FOLLOWS GEORGE WASHINGTON'S ARMY ON ITS 1779 INVASION OF NEW YORK AND THE BATTLE OF NEWTOWN

Almost two years to the day after the Thirteen Colonies declared their independence from England, over 300 Pennsylvania settlers paid the ultimate price. Their fort in the frontier Wyoming Valley was still burning as a dozen or so survivors were dragged before Queen Esther Montour, the part-French she-devil of the Seneca, whose son had been shot and killed the day before. She had the prisoners forced to their knees around a flat rock and went around the circle, singing, dancing and using a war club or tomahawk to, one after another, smash their skulls on it. The next morning, brandishing a bloody spear, she was heard to complain that she had never in her life been so tired as from killing so many Yankees, and later that day, took her leave on a stolen horse with a string of scalps in hand, to be ever remembered as the “fiend of Wyoming”.

Led by the Seneca chieftains Old Smoke and the half-Dutch Cornplanter, the Wyoming Massacre was just the latest in a series of brutal frontier atrocities and reprisals. Throughout the spring of 1778, Cornplanter and the Mohawk Joseph Brant, along with British Colonel John Butler and his son, Capt. Walter Butler, had driven the colonists down the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna in what would be called the “Big Runaway”. With the British concentrating their military efforts in the South and the war in the North otherwise stalemated, Major General George Washington decided it was time to “carry war into the Indian country so as to strike a terror into the Savages”.

BATTLE PLAN

In the spring of 1779, he assigned to Maj. Gen. John Sullivan the New Jersey Brigade under Brigadier General William Maxwell; Brig. Gen. Enoch Poor’s New Hampshire Brigade; and Brig. Gen. Edward Hand’s Third (Light Corps), including three companies of Col. Daniel Morgan’s Virginia riflemen under Maj. James Parr. While they drove upriver to Tioga (modern Athens, PA), where the Chemung River meets the Susquehanna, Brig. Gen. James Clinton’s New York Brigade would assemble on the latter’s headwaters at Lake Otsego, then come downstream to meet them. From Tioga, the combined force – over 4,000 Continental soldiers – would strike into the lands of the Iroquois Six Nations. The Sullivan Campaign would be the largest of 1779. “Parties



Cornplanter, the half-Dutch Seneca chief who led the Iroquois at the Wyoming Massacre and the Battle of Newtown. Portrait by Frederick Bartoli, 1796. *Public domain*



Maj. Gen. John Sullivan, 38, was a red-haired Irishman who had started the war as a major of New Hampshire militia and risen to major general, fighting in the siege of Boston and the invasion of Quebec along the way. He'd been captured on Long Island and returned in a prisoner exchange, led troops at the victories at Trenton and Princeton and the defeat at Rhode Island, and was being considered to command an invasion of Canada when Congress agreed to invade Iroquoia instead. *Public domain*

should be detached to lay waste all the settlements around, with instructions to do it in the most effectual manner," Washington ordered (emphasis in original), "that the country may not be *merely overrun*, but DESTROYED. ... You will not by any means listen to overtures of peace before the total destruction of [the Iroquois'] settlements is effected."

INVASION

However, it took three regiments until mid-June just to cut a road the 70-odd miles to Wyoming, and until late July for the last of Sullivan's Continentals to march in. While they waited for sufficient horses, cattle, provisions and guns to arrive, Clinton gathered his men and supply boats up on Lake Otsego, from which the Susquehanna issues as a shallow creek. As the summer wore on and the flow dwindled, he ordered the lake dammed to raise its water table and keep his flat-bottomed bateaux afloat.

Sullivan's army and fleet of 214 boats stretched alongside each other for some two miles when they set out upriver from Wyoming on July 31st. Toward Tioga, the Susquehanna cuts through the Appalachians in a series of sweeping curves and sheer-walled horseshoe bends. As the fleet poled slowly upstream, the army paralleled its course through places like Buttermilk Falls, Echo Canyon and Breakneck Hill, where three of the expedition's cattle fell 200 feet to their deaths. On Tuesday, August 10th, in a pouring rain, the troops linked arms to wade the waist-deep flow at Tioga and find Queen Esther's Town deserted, she having retreated with her people up the Chemung. The army pitched camp on the strategic 300-yard footpath across the narrows between the rivers, where Indians for hundreds of years had portaged their canoes rather than paddling around Tioga Point a mile and a half below. Axmen began felling and squaring timber for a fort. Others violated the site's numerous Indian graves for souvenir tomahawks, beads and pipes.

INDIAN COUNTRY

Scouts returned Wednesday afternoon to report hostiles in the town of Old Chemung, just a few miles upstream. Sullivan ordered a night march, but at sunrise, found the Iroquois had fled that village as well. "I am much surprised that they did not make a greater opposition in defense of their town," he reported. "It was most beautifully situated, contained a chapel, with between thirty

and forty other houses, many of them very large, and some of them tolerably well finished. There were extensive fields of corn, with great quantities of potatoes, pumpkins, squashes, and, in short, most other things which farms produce. The whole was destroyed.” Rather than press on with only a partial force, though, he retired to Tioga to await Clinton’s reinforcements.

Clinton had received his marching orders on the 6th. His men cut the dam at the mouth of Lake Otsego and his fleet of over 200 boats rode down the Susquehanna on the surge, while his brigade burned every town on the banks.

Upstream from Old Chemung, the Iroquois were digging in at Newtown: Seneca and Cayuga warriors and small numbers of Mohawks, Onondagas, Delawares and white loyalists, plus nearly 200 British Rangers and a detachment of the King’s Regiment, about 700 all told. The roster of Indian leaders reads like a who’s-who: Cornplanter and Old Smoke, Red Jacket, Handsome Lake, Little Beard and the Shawnee Blacksnake. Brant arrived shortly after Sullivan’s troops departed. He and the Butlers opposed a set-piece battle, preferring to conduct a typical native campaign of harassment, ambush, and attrition. Though outnumbered over four to one, the Seneca (who regarded the Mohawk Brant as a British pet) overruled them. “We are in daily expectation of a battle which we think will be a severe one,” Brant wrote on August 19th. “Then we shall begin to know what is to become of the People of the Long House.”

On the 22nd, Clinton’s brigade reached Tioga, where a band played, thirteen cannon shots were fired, and huzzahs were shouted in welcome. Four days



In July 1778, over 300 colonials were killed by Iroquois and Tories at Wyoming, PA. The Wyoming Massacre, painting by Alonzo Chappel, 1858. *Public domain*



After Newtown, the Seneca chief Red Jacket, a bitter enemy of Joseph Brant, was accused of cowardice, but achieved later fame as an orator on behalf of his people. In this 1835 lithograph by Henry Corbould, after a painting by Charles Bird King, he wears a peace medal presented to him by George Washington. *Public domain*

later, the combined Sullivan-Clinton Expedition, laden with wagons and artillery, finally set out up the Chemung. The morning of the 29th found them closing on Newtown.

THE BATTLE OF NEWTOWN

The village lay between the river and a parallel, 600-foot-high ridge, the southeastern tip of which commanded both the river to the west and the road to the east. “The growth upon the hill being pine, interspersed with very low shrub oaks,” Sullivan reported, “[the Iroquois] had cut off shrubs and stuck them in the ground in front of their works, and had some reason to suppose that we should not distinguish them from those growing on the eminence.” While the Continentals had delayed, the camouflage had wilted in the August heat, leaving a line of dead brush to mark the Iroquois positions. One flank commanded any advance up the riverbank and the other

Hoffman Hollow, the defile to the east. The Battle of Newtown would be an anomaly in Indian warfare: dug-in natives facing a rank-and-file assault.

"The attack in front was invited by repeated sorties of a body of about four hundred of the enemy," recalled Lt. John Hardenbergh of the 2nd New York Regiment, "who would deliver their fire, and immediately retreat to their works." Parr's riflemen replied from behind the banks of Baldwin Creek. Each side hoped to draw the other into an assault across the intervening hundred yards of open ground. Neither fell for the bait.

"After three hours of skirmishing, deliberating, and reconnoitering," wrote Hardenbergh, "General Sullivan determined to divide his force, turn the enemy's

left, and attack simultaneously in front and flank." While Gen. Hand, with Maxwell in support, demonstrated in front of the Iroquois breastworks, Sullivan sent Poor, with Clinton behind him, to the right into Hoffman Hollow. After an hour, the artillery would open up on the Iroquois center and Hand's brigade would feint toward it. At the sound of the guns, Poor and Clinton were to take the ridge and come down behind the enemy. Then Hand would launch his assault in earnest. On the far left, 250 men of Col. Matthew Ogden's 2nd New Jersey Regiment, and on the far right, 250 of Col. Lewis Dubois' 5th New York, would sweep around the ends and perhaps even achieve an encirclement, for in accordance with

Washington's orders, Sullivan wished not to simply drive the Indians before him, but "bring them to a fair and open action".

However, the valley floor along Baldwin's Creek was so swampy and overgrown that Poor's men had only just reached the foot of the ridge at 3:00PM, when according to Lt. Obadiah Gore Jr. of the 3rd Connecticut Regiment, "...we began a cannonade upon the breast-work, and in about six minutes [the Iroquois] began to run and quit their works, which our advance party took possession of immediately."

Walter Butler remembered, "The shells bursting beyond us, made the Indians imagine the Enemy had got their Artillery all round us, & so startled & confounded them that [a] great part



As shown on this modern aerial view, Sullivan's army, advancing up the Chemung from the southeast (lower right), spotted Iroquois breastworks between the river and a ridge to the north. Sullivan sent Poor's brigade, backed by Clinton's, through Hoffman Hollow and across Baldwin Creek to assault the enemy on the ridge. As the Indians in the center withdrew under artillery bombardment, they fell on Reid's regiment, which had become separated. *Illustration by the author*

of them ran off.” He and his Rangers fell back onto the slopes of the ridge, reinforcing the natives there against Poor’s flank assault. Accustomed to fighting ill-equipped, poorly trained militia (or unarmed civilians), they must have been astounded to see ranks of blue-coated Continental soldiers marching up out of the hollow in the best European manner.

UPHILL FIGHT

In the thick brush of the ridge, the Indians could remain invisible at a dozen yards, with only white clouds of powder smoke giving away their positions. The Continentals struggled to maintain their lines as musket balls slashed through them. Lt. Col. Henry Dearborn of the Third New Hampshire reported that his men “advanced rappedly with fix’d bayonet without firing a shot altho [sic] they kept a steady fire on us.”

“The enemy retreated from tree to tree, keeping up an incessant fire,” Sullivan learned, “until [Poor’s] troops had gained the summit of the hill.”

Poor may have flattered himself that he had achieved his objective with little trouble. In fact, he was practically cut off from the main force down on the valley floor. On his right, Dubois was almost out of the battle, and on his left, Lt. Col. George Reid’s Second New Hampshire Regiment, climbing the steep end of the ridge, had lagged behind and become separated.

Butler and Brant were well enough schooled in European tactics to recognize the opportunity still existed to cut the Continental army in two. They rushed men from their abandoned center onto Reid’s position.

“Almost at the commencement of the cannonade,” recalled Hardenbergh, “the main force of the enemy adroitly abandoned

their works without being discovered, and precipitated themselves on Colonel Reid’s regiment in greatly superior numbers.”

Cut off from the rest of Poor’s brigade, and with Brant’s Iroquois pouring over the ridge, Reid was all but surrounded. “They swarmed about him in a semi-circle,” wrote Hardenbergh, “and for a few moments made the forest ring with their exultant shouts.”

VICTORY IN THE BALANCE

The noise came to the attention of Dearborn up on the summit, who ordered his regiment about and back downhill to the rescue. Requiring either a retreat or an attack, Reid ordered a charge. Indians and bluecoats crashed together on the end of the ridge, where the Battle of Newtown came down to tomahawk and

bayonet, hand to hand.

“The conflict was short, sharp and decisive,” reported Hardenbergh, “and the war whoop soon gave way to the retreat halloo.” With Dearborn’s regiment firing into them from the high ground and two regiments of Clinton’s reserve coming up from below, the Iroquois were nearly trapped. Down on the flats, Hand’s brigade had overrun the empty breastworks and Ogden’s blocked off the riverbank; to the north, Dubois’s regiment threatened Newtown itself. Only the brief lapse in Continental timing saved Butler and Brant from complete encirclement. They fell back, down the ridge and up the river. In his report, Butler put a noble face on things: “Both Officers and Men behaved with Much Spirit, but the Efforts of Such a band full were of little avail against the Force they had to oppose.”



Commanded by Harry Stephens and accompanied by an Indian scout, men of the 24th Connecticut Militia, Hoisington’s Rangers, Selins Rifle Company and 5th N.Y Regiment head down Sullivan’s Ridge. Left to right: Jim “Peacewalker” Arvin, Jim Miller, Bob Richter, Mike Eckhart, Brad Flint, Joe Morrison, Al Kobal, Garret Hopfer, Steve Collward, Anthony Consiglio, Russel Elliot, Frank Prussia, James Burr Sr., James Burr Jr., James Fehr, Tom Johannessen.

Special thanks to Anthony Consiglio for his help with this photo

The Battle of Newtown is re-enacted every year around the end of August. For details or to participate, see <http://nysparks.com/parks/107>



Mohawk Joseph Brant tried to persuade the Senecas not to conduct a self-piece battle at Newtown, but later at Genesee encouraged them to stand and fight. Joseph Brant, by Gilbert Stuart, 1786. Public domain

The Continentals gave up the chase some miles beyond Newtown, and that night, camped in the village. The next day, after plundering the native gardens, orchards and fields to supplement their rations, they burned everything else to the ground.

SCORCHED EARTH

That set the pattern for the rest of the Sullivan Campaign. Leaving behind their heaviest artillery, Sullivan's army blitzed the length of Seneca Lake, often arriving in Indian villages to find cook fires still burning, corn on the boil, and warriors fleeing into the woods. And where the bluecoats went, they left nothing behind but scorched earth.

Cornplanter and Brant convinced the Iroquois to make one more stand. On 13 September, just outside Genesee, NY, the Continentals were obliged to stop and build a bridge. Old Smoke, Little Beard and Blacksnake laid an ambush. A scouting party of some two dozen troops led by Lt. Thomas Boyd and Sgt. Michael

Parker sprang the trap, were cut off and surrounded. Sullivan and his men, still across the creek, could hear their gunfire, but not reach them in time. Over half the Americans were killed on the spot. Boyd and Parker were taken alive, and it was upon these two poor souls that the Iroquois vented all their frustration and fury. Their bellies opened and their intestines nailed to an oak, they were made to run around it until the guts were drawn out of them. (The tree still stands in Boyd & Parker Park, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.) When the rest of the army marched into Little Beard's Town the next day, they found the two bodies horrifically mutilated and partially eaten by dogs.

At this point, Sullivan considered his work done. His army split up and returned to Tioga by various routes, completing the job of destruction. By the time they arrived back at Wyoming, they had burned some 40 Indian villages and 200,000 bushels of corn. From the Susquehanna to the Finger Lakes, Iroquois country was a smoking ruin. British Fort Niagara had to feed hundreds of refugees that winter of 1779-1780, generally thought to be the worst of the century. Sullivan may not have annihilated the Six Nations – warriors and Tories conducted sporadic raids for the next several years – but famine, disease and cold nearly finished the job for him.

Sullivan himself, exhausted by the campaign, resigned from the army that same year, but went on to serve as New Hampshire's delegate to Congress and eventually governor; he died in 1795, at age 54. Walter Butler died fighting in October 1781. Queen Esther, who never paid for her alleged crimes (some historians claim she was never at Wyoming in the first

place), is said to have lived out her days on the shores of Cayuga Lake, passing away in 1790. That year, Cornplanter met then president George Washington in Philadelphia. "When your army entered the country of the Six Nations," he said, "we called you the town destroyer; and to this day, when that name is heard, our women look behind them and turn pale, and our children cling close to the necks of their mothers." One country's father is another nation's nemesis. *HM*



Today the Wyoming Monument commemorates the 300 victims of the Wyoming Massacre, July 3, 1778. Public domain

FURTHER READING

History of Sullivan's Campaign Against the Iroquois by A. Tiffany Norton, 1879. Free online.

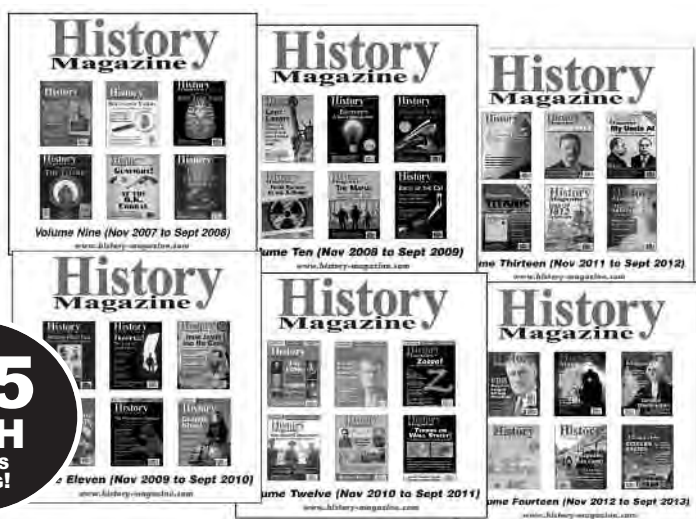
Frequent contributor **DON HOLLWAY** has most recently written about Étienne Brûlé in our Dec/Jan 2015 edition. Watch for his upcoming look at the Red Baron in our Oct/Nov 2015 issue.

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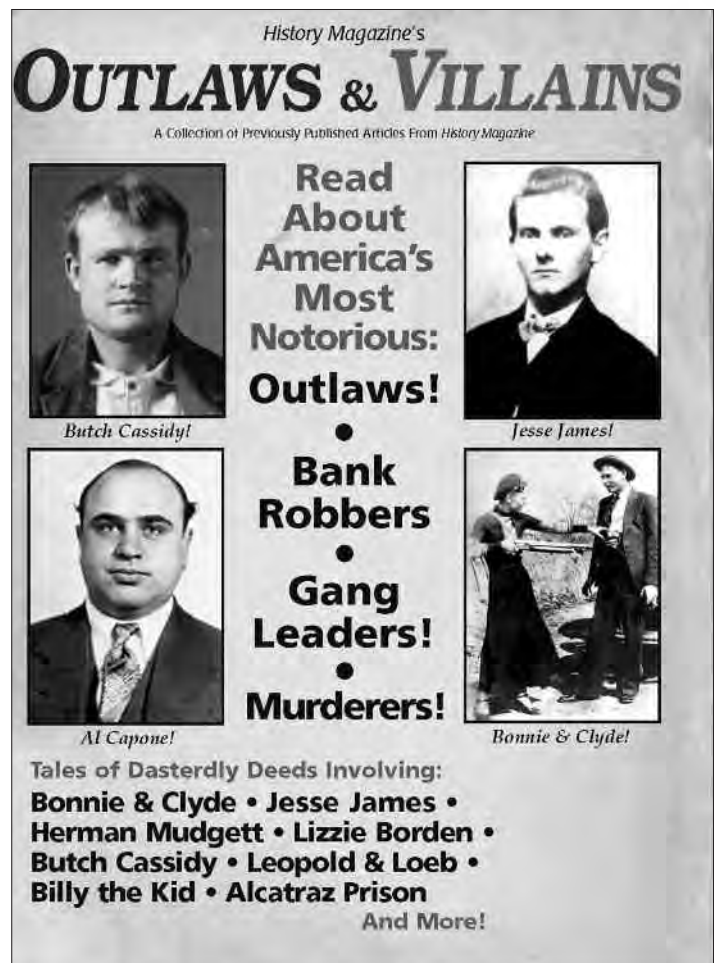
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ART

THE ART OF SAMUEL F.B. MORSE

**WILLIAM FLOYD
JR. EXAMINES
THE LIFE OF THE
ACCOMPLISHED
PAINTER AND
INVENTOR OF
THE TELEGRAPH**

Samuel F.B. Morse, half-length
portrait by Mathew Brady, posing
with left hand on a telegraph
apparatus, circa 1850.

Library of Congress

Samuel Morse, like many other young, talented Americans traveling to Paris in the 1830s, saw the trip as being essential to fulfilling their individual dreams. Morse was already a well-known portrait painter when he sailed from New York for Paris in November 1829. He had recently lost his wife and had to leave his three children with relatives in order to make the trip. Morse was shattered at the death of his wife and for the sake of his work, felt he must go to Paris. He stated, "I long to bury myself in the Louvre". Morse was so devoted to his painting that he spent nearly two years on his "Gallery of the Louvre", refusing to leave Paris even during the cholera outbreak of 1832.

Samuel Finley Breese Morse was born 27 April 1791 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, the son of Jedidiah Morse, a distinguished geographer and Congregational clergyman. He attended Yale College (now Yale University). He was somewhat of an indifferent scholar, but did develop an interest in electricity and began painting miniature portraits. Painting became his main interest and, in 1811, he travelled to England to advance his new-found passion. While in England, he accepted the English "historical" style of painting. When he returned home in 1815, Morse soon found out that Americans did not take to this style of painting and had to return to painting portraits to earn a living. He travelled between New England, New York, and South Carolina, plying his trade.

In 1818, he made the first of four yearly visits to Charleston, South Carolina where the temperate southern seaport proved a pleasant setting for his work. He also found a group of wealthy patrons eager to sit for him. Of the portraits he produced while in Charleston was one of Mrs. Robert Young Hayne, wife of South Carolina Senator and later governor, Robert Young Hayne. This painting is now in the collection of the Chrysler Museum in

Norfolk, Virginia. Morse finally settled in New York where many of his clients included local and national dignitaries such as President James Monroe. During this time, two of Morse's best-known works were of the Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington. In 1826, Morse played a part in the founding of the National Academy of Design and became its first president. The primary function of this organization was to help secure sales for artists and to raise the public's appreciation of art.

Morse now travelled to Paris to expand his knowledge of painting. He arrived in Paris on New Year's Day 1830 and went immediately to the Louvre and began touring the gallery trying to decide which of 1,250 paintings to copy. After a couple of weeks in Paris, he left for Italy, where he spent days working in the Vatican galleries and other museums. During this time, he also produced paintings on commission, receiving one hundred dollars for a copy of

Raphael's "School of Athens". He returned to Paris in September 1831 and soon decided upon what his grand work was going to be. Prior to Morse beginning his "Gallery of the Louvre", no American had shown such ambition in taking on such an enormous project that could take a year or more to complete. In effect, his plan was to transform the Salon Carré, or square room, with copied paintings of his choosing, arranged in a way he wanted them to be seen. This would allow many of the great works of art to be seen in one grand painting. Morse was not the first to do a painting of the Louvre. John Scarlett Davis, a British artist had worked there a year before Morse. Morse most likely knew of the painting, which may have inspired him.

During his time in Paris, Morse became extremely close with the American writer, James Fenimore Cooper ("The Last of the Mohicans"). When Cooper arrived in 1826, he was already an international sensation. The two had previously met in Washington during the Grand Tour of the Marquis de Lafayette. In 1832, when Morse began his project, the two became inseparable. Cooper developed a set routine of going to the Louvre to watch Morse work. He would arrive at the Louvre about one o'clock after spending part of his morning writing. Cooper wrote, "... go to



Samuel Finley Breese Morse, 1840.



Photograph (dated 1915-1920) shows a painting of the Marquis de Lafayette painted by Samuel F.B. Morse. Library of Congress, Source: Flickr Commons project, 2013

the Louvre, where I find Morse stuck up on a high working stand, perch myself astraddle of one of the seats, and bore him." During his time watching Morse, Cooper would offer unsolicited advice such as, "Lay it on here, Samuel – more yellow – the nose is too short – the eye too small – damn it, if I had been a painter what a picture I should have painted".

The painting was to be six feet by nine feet, much larger than his "House of Representatives" done a decade earlier, with a total of thirty-eight paintings including Leonardo's "Mona Lisa". Aside

from copying the paintings, Morse depicted a number of people in the Louvre, including Cooper and his wife and daughter. Working up on his scaffold, Morse was, without a doubt, the center of attention for those passing through the galleries. Morse's only real diversions during this time were the dinners and conversation, he would enjoy at Cooper's house on almost a nightly basis.

Morse returned to America with his grand work unfinished. He resumed work on it back in New York in the winter of 1833,

completing the frames and adding the figures in the foreground by August. The painting was exhibited in New York and New Haven, Connecticut to dismal reviews. Morse was extremely disappointed by the response and ended up selling the work for \$1,300. In 1982, the Terra Foundation for American Art, a museum in Chicago, bought it for \$3,250,000, at the time, the highest sum ever for a work by an American artist.

In 1835, Morse moved into NYU's new University Building. Here, he had a studio as well as six other rooms for himself and his students. As an unpaid faculty member, Morse collected fees for instruction from his students. Morse was greatly disappointed by not securing a commission to paint a mural for the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC. It was at this time that he began to move away from art and more toward what he would eventually be most remembered for, the telegraph and the Morse code. Morse died in 1872, honored for his many scientific achievements. In more recent times, art historians and the public have expressed a renewed appreciation in Samuel Morse's achievements in art and his contribution, particularly to art in America. In Carleton Mabee's book, *The American Leonardo: A Life of Samuel F.B. Morse*, he states, "He had a mind that was constantly busy with inquiry and quick in relating seemingly diverse facts". *Em*

WILLIAM FLOYD JR. is retired from the City of Norfolk, VA after 40 years of service. He is attending Tidewater Community College, concentrating in history. He is also currently writing articles on various historical topics, mainly on the Civil War and World War II.



J. Rosamond Johnson (seated at piano) and Taylor Gordon in New York City in 1927. In 1929, Gordon published a book called *Born to Be* about his youth in White Sulphur Springs, where he was born and died. Courtesy of Montana Historical Society

TAYLOR GORDON: “NEGRO SINGER WHO PUT MONTANA ON THE MAP”

**BRIAN D’AMBROSIO EXPLORES THE LIFE OF A MAN WHO
BECAME A VIBRANT FIGURE IN THE “HARLEM RENAISSANCE”**

Emmanuel Taylor Gordon’s life began between six and seven o’clock on Saturday morning, 29 April 1893, at White Sulphur Springs, Montana, in a little three room shack with two gables, two doors, four windows and a cloth ceiling.

Taylor was the youngest of five children of John Francis Gordon and Mary Anna Goodall Gordon. His father claimed descent from Zulu ancestors and his mother

had been born in slavery in Bourbon County, Kentucky.

The couple, and their baby son Robert, moved to Montana from Cairo, Illinois in 1881, traveling

up the Missouri River via steamboat. John worked as a cook in the gold mining camps of Barker and Castle.

Their daughter, Rose, was born in Barker in 1883. Sometime around 1885, the family moved to White Sulphur Springs, where they became – and remained – the town’s only African-American family.

The senior Gordon left White Sulphur Springs in 1895; he headed out for the Alaskan gold fields, but was killed in a train crash in Canada. Mary raised the children alone, supporting the children primarily by working as a laundress.

Young Taylor Gordon spent his early years attending the local school and carrying out a variety of offbeat jobs, including messenger for the town's brothels, pin setter in a bowling alley, and preparer of opium in the town's Chinese opium den, before Gordon left home to become a chauffeur, Pullman porter, auto mechanic, and chef in the personal train cars of circus owner John Ringling. Ringling had a ranch near White Sulphur Springs (the tiny town of Ringling bears the family name).

About 1910, when Taylor was 17, Ringling hired him as chauffeur for his Smith River Development Company and later chef and porter on his private railroad car. Taylor traveled around the US on the train, experiencing for the first time the prejudice and hostility facing blacks in the 1910s and 1920s.

"I never knew I was colored until I left White Sulphur Springs," Gordon wrote in his memoirs.

In New York City, Gordon became a vibrant figure in the "Harlem Renaissance", the cultural, social, and artistic explosion that took place in Harlem, New York, between the end of World War I and the middle of the 1930s. During this period, Harlem was a cultural epicenter, attracting black writers, artists, musicians, photographers, poets, and scholars.

He partnered with pianist Rosamond Johnson in 1925 in a

musical vaudeville act, performing Negro spirituals. The duo toured for several years, including a series of concerts in Europe in 1927, before dispersing in the early 1930s. As an interpreter of "negro spirituals", he was written to have had "no equals". An article in the *Billings Gazette* in 1928 refers to Gordon as "the Negro singer who put Montana on the map".



Taylor as a young man. Courtesy of Montana Historical Society

Gordon also performed on Broadway and acted in a movie called *The Emperor Jones* with Paul Robeson. In 1929, Gordon's autobiography *Born to Be* was published.

Born To Be remains of note because of its insightful perspective on race and race relations in the West at a time when few African-Americans lived there. Gordon's presentation of his childhood in Montana scarcely mentions his race, and portrays a perhaps romanticized view

of whites, blacks, and Chinese immigrants living together in a small town with little or no conflict. But the few references he does make suggest that his race was not inconspicuous so much as simply accepted and even privileged in revealing ways. In discussing his work in the brothels, for example, he notes:

"I fitted right in the network perfectly on account of the pigment of my skin. I was accepted both high and low, never questioned why or what I was doing in conspicuous places. ... [G]enerally my face was a passport stamped in full. I was even admitted into the saloon long before boys of my age were. Some of these people would turn over in their graves, if they are dead, if they could know what many of my movements were for."

Gordon returned to White Sulphur Springs in 1935 and spent the winter of that year in a cabin at Sheep Creek Ranch. During this time, he wrote a novel, but his efforts to have it published were unsuccessful. In addition, it became increasingly difficult for Gordon to make a living as his attempts to renew his musical career fell short. He eventually turned to inventing toys and working as a lathe operator in a New Jersey B-29 factory during World War II.

Gordon suffered a mental breakdown in 1947, and was hospitalized in New York for most of the following twelve years. He became increasingly paranoid; his stress exacerbated by a dispute with John Steinbeck's publisher Viking Press. Gordon had previously submitted a similarly themed novel to the same publisher, and he believed that

Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* had been plagiarized from his work.

In February 1959, Gordon was released from Central Islip Hospital to the care of his sister, Rose, who still resided in White Sulphur Springs. He lived there in anonymity, surviving on rental incomes and an antique business. He also occasionally provided concerts and talks for local groups. He continued to write, including the 1970 *Born To Be* sequel, but his only publication was a 1967 booklet entitled *The Man Who Built the Stone Castle*, describing White Sulphur Springs' historic landmark and its creator, B.R. Sherman.

Taylor Gordon died on 5 May 1971. Shortly before Gordon died, future novelist Ivan Doig taped his reminiscences of

Harlem in the 1920s. Gordon was the inspiration of Ivan Doig's Monty Rathbun in the popular novel *Prairie Nocturne*.

Rathbun is a black chauffeur whom music teacher Susan coaches, with Wes' financial backing. In the book's preface, Doig refers to Gordon as "a gifted singer who went to New York, blazed through the Harlem Renaissance and got a little famous, then blew his money and wound up back in Montana."

None of Taylor's four siblings married or had children.

Robert Gordon (1881-1962) lived in White Sulphur Springs working several years as the custodian for the Sherman Hotel and the First National Bank; Rose Gordon (1883-1968) was born in Barker, Montana, and lived in White Sulphur Springs operating various businesses

(Rose's Cafe, Kentucky Kitchen, Gordon Novelty) and working as a physical therapist; John Gordon, Jr., (1885-1952) was born in White Sulphur Springs and worked thirty years for the Dollar Steamship Line headquartered in Seattle; George Washington Gordon (1888-1948) was born in White Sulphur Springs and served 29 years as a steward for the Bozeman Elks Club. *HM*

BRIAN D'AMBROSIO lives and works in, and writes from, Missoula, Montana. He contributes regularly to multiple publications on a vast variety of subjects. His most recent contribution to *History Magazine* was a piece on WWII journalist Ernie Pyle, which appeared in the Dec/Jan 2015 issue.

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Placing agents Herman D. Clarke and Anna Laura Hill escorted this group of children to Hopkinton, Iowa in March 1906. Emily (Reese) Kidder accompanied them as far as Chicago, where she was placed in the first of many homes. *Courtesy of the Children's Aid Society*

AMERICA'S ORPHAN TRAINS

CLARK KIDDER EXAMINES A PRIMITIVE SOCIAL EXPERIMENT THAT RESULTED IN ORPHANED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN BEING SENT ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

It seems incomprehensible that there was a time in America's not-so-distant past that an estimated quarter million children could be loaded on trains in New York City and Boston, sent to the rural Midwest, and presented for the picking to anyone who expressed an interest in them. That's exactly what happened between the years 1854 and 1929. The primitive social experiment became known as Placing Out. Today, historians refer to it as the Orphan Train Movement.

The scheme was first devised by the Boston Children's Mission in 1849. Other such institutions in New England soon followed suit, but it was not until a young minister named Charles Loring Brace decided that a similar arrangement should be made to deal with New York City's orphaned and neglected children did it begin to happen in a very

organized and deliberate fashion. In 1853, Brace founded the Children's Aid Society. The Society gathered up orphans, half-orphans, and abandoned children from streets and orphanages, and placed them on trains under the auspices of what they dubbed their Western Emigration and Placing-Out Department. They whisked them off to small towns and farms in the Midwest – the first train arriving in Dowagiac, Michigan in 1854. It was Brace's belief that, "In every American community, especially in a western one, there are many spare places at the table of life. They have enough for themselves and the stranger too". He added, "The best of all asylums for the outcast child is the *farmer's home*."

The stories of the individual children involved in this great migration of little emigrants have nearly all been lost in the attic of American history.

While doing genealogical research on my family in the 1990s, I was astounded to learn that my paternal grandmother, Emily (Reese) Kidder, was indeed one of these orphan train riders. While growing up, I would often hear her speak of being placed in an orphanage in Brooklyn, New York and how she was brought west on a train and placed in homes by a Seventh-Day Baptist minister named Herman Clarke. Unfortunately, my grandmother passed away in 1986, prior to my realization that she was a part of the greatest migration of children in American history.

Further research revealed that my grandmother was not an

orphan at all, but was tragically abandoned by her father, leaving her mother alone and unable to care for their nine children. My grandmother Emily and her brother Richard, who was two years older than she, were taken from their mother by the Brooklyn-based Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. They were immediately placed in The Home for Destitute Children at 217 Sterling Place in Brooklyn. Richard was placed with a foster family in Brooklyn in 1903, and later, legally adopted by them. Emily was not so fortunate. She would spend nearly eleven years of her life at the orphanage.

In 1906, Emily was transferred to the Elizabeth Home for Girls, which was operated by the aforementioned Children's Aid Society. The Home took in girls who were "principally poor, neglected girls, orphans or half orphans, who had never known loving care or learned self-control or obedience to law and order". The Home's Matron was one Elizabeth S. Hurley. Hurley's job was to make "trained domestics of girls", by teaching them table manners, dressmaking, laundry work, typing, and cooking.

Children's Aid Society records reveal that Emily was placed from the Elizabeth Home with a woman in New Rochelle, New York, but the woman deemed her "unsatisfactory", and sent her back to the Home.

On 13 March 1906, Emily was informed she would be joining seven other children that were plucked from various orphanages in the area and sent on a train bound for their new homes with families in Hopkinton, Iowa. They all assembled at the United Charities Building, which held the offices of the Children's Aid Society on its third floor at 105 E. 22nd Street.

HOMES WANTED

FOR CHILDREN

.....

A Company of Orphan Children of Different
Ages Will Arrive In Mapleton, Iowa.

Thursday, June 16

The Distribution will take place
at Opera House at 10:30 a. m.

.....

The object of the coming of these children is to find homes in your midst, especially among farmers, where they may enjoy a happy and wholesome family life, where kind care, good example and moral training will fit them for a life of self-support and usefulness. They come under the auspices of the New York Children's Aid Society, by whom they have been tested and found to be well meaning and willing boys and girls.

The conditions are that they shall be properly clothed and treated as members of the family, sent to school according to the school law of the state, and remain in the family until they are eighteen years of age. At the expiration of the time specified it is hoped that arrangements can be made whereby they be able to remain in the family indefinitely. The society retains the right to remove a child at any time for just cause, and agrees to remove any found unsatisfactory after being notified.

Applications may be made to some of the following well known citizens who have agreed to act as local committee to aid the agent in securing homes:

W. H. CHRISMAN, J. E. SCOTT, H. F. NOURSE, L. N. FENNE, J. R. WELCH, T. B. LUTZ, F. GRIFFIN, H. S. GILLESPIE.

.....

If the Children are not all taken at 10:30 a. m.
an adjourned meeting will be held at 1:30 p. m.

.....

REMEMBER THE TIME AND PLACE

Come Out and Hear the Address.

.....

H. D. CLARKE, Agt.

Dodgers, such as this one for Mapleton, Iowa in 1904, would be posted around town prior to the arrival of the orphan train. They would list the terms on which the children were placed, the time and place, and names of local committee members to contact. *Courtesy of Mrs. Walter Sayre*

Accompanying the group of children as agents of the Children's Aid Society were Reverend Herman D. Clarke and Anna Laura Hill.

These so-called companies of children would eventually be sent to every state in America, with the exception of Hawaii and Alaska – the vast majority being sent to those states located in the Midwest as these states contained the largest number of farmers. The Children's Aid Society would assemble groups of six to over one hundred for the journey west.

The children were typically bathed in the basement of the United Charities Building, fitted with a new set of clothes, given a Bible, and then sent on the trains. All their worldly belongings were crammed into tiny suitcases or brown paper sacks. Children were not allowed to take any keepsakes or toys with them, and they were encouraged to break all ties with biological family. Emily, nearly fourteen at the time, managed to conceal a little brass brooch that held a precious photo of her father inside.

In the case of the Children's Aid Society, advertisements were placed in local newspapers, and a committee consisting of local clergymen and prominent businessmen was assembled to make arrangements approximately two weeks prior to the arrival of the train.

Prospective foster parents would come from as far away as thirty miles to take their pick of a child, and crowds of up to 1,500 would gather. The Society discouraged the placements of siblings in the same household, as they feared sibling rivalry would just give foster parents another excuse to have them removed. This caused many tearful separations.

The children would be lined up on the steps of the courthouse, a platform at the train depot, or the



Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children's Aid Society and pioneer in the Orphan Train Movement.
Courtesy of the author

stage of an opera house. They would often sing, dance, or otherwise perform for the audience. At the end of a speech by the placing agent, the children would be inspected (not unlike cattle or puppies) by the prospective foster parents. The placing agent would then inspect the homes of the foster parents within a few days after the placement, followed by yearly visits – more often if conditions called for it. The children were encouraged to write the organization that placed them at least twice a year to report on how they



The author's grandmother, Emily (Reese) Kidder managed to conceal this brooch that held a photo of her father on her orphan train journey. Children were normally forbidden to take any personal belongings with them and encouraged to break all ties with biological family.
Courtesy of the author

were doing in their new homes. Such letters were often censored by the foster parents.

If lucky, the new foster child would find a good home, but quite often, they were simply used as maids and farm hands, or worse. Some ran away. Others were rejected by their foster parents and required numerous placements over several years, as was the case with my grandmother.

Placing Agent Reverend Herman D. Clarke once said, "An orphan's faults are magnified above others." Reverend Clarke recorded one case in his journals where a child was cast away from his foster home for "going to the basement and dipping his finger in a jar of jelly". Another child was sent away for swatting too many flies, therefore, displaying too much aggression in the eyes of his foster parents.

Bizarre requests were often made by prospective foster parents. Reverend Clarke recalled one such request in his journal: "Mr. Clarke, I want a little girl with curly black hair and black eyes, pleasant features, good form, a good singer, and a good memory, so as to take part in Sunday School concerts. Oh! And a complexion that will not tan or freckle in the sun." Clarke reported he "never found the child".

In the case of the New York Foundling Asylum, which was a Catholic-run organization founded in 1869, foster parents would be identified by a local priest prior to sending the children on the train. Each child was assigned a number. The name and address of the new foster parents would be written on a piece of cloth and sewn into their collars. Generally speaking, the Children's Aid Society placed Protestant children in Protestant homes and the Foundling Hospital (renamed in 1880 when their services expanded) placed Catholic children

in Catholic homes. Of course, there were many exceptions to this rule. The Foundling Hospital's trains were often referred to as "baby trains" as they seldom sent children any older than five years – the vast majority being infants.

In 1999, I flew to New York and visited the Children's Aid Society archives in person. To my amazement, they still had a rather plump file on my grandmother, Emily. They even had a letter she had written to the Society on 26 December 1906 from her foster home with the Kellogg family in Waukon, Iowa. She wrote positively, if not grammatically, about her life:

*"Dear Sir –
I received your letter quite a while ago but did not answer. I go to school with the children that I live with. I stay at home and help with the work. I have not any photograph to sent. We live 2 ½ miles south east of Waukon. I do not know of the future years what I am going to do. I think I will be a dressmaker. I believed I will start to sew next summer. Well, I will close this time.*

*Your Truly,
Emily Reese"*

The bulk of my grandmother's file consisted of various reports that Reverend Clarke had sent in regarding the many foster homes that my grandmother was placed in. These were immensely interesting, yet very painful to read. I learned that my grandmother was placed in no less than seven homes in seven years, in four states! Reasons for replacement included, "unsatisfactory", "quarreled with our little boy", "not clothed properly", "not sent to school", "deserted at a religious camp meeting in the woods near Waukon, Iowa", etc. One item in the file was a letter from a

member of Emily's birth family – a great niece, searching for records on Emily. I'd looked for over fifteen years for a member of the Reese family, to no avail, so this was an especially rewarding find for me. My newfound cousin filled in a lot of blanks on the family tree.

During my research for a book I wrote on my grandmother's life titled *Emily's Story: The Brave Journey of an Orphan Train Rider*, I discovered the journals and scrapbooks kept by Reverend Herman D. Clarke – the minister that placed my grandmother. The widow of Reverend Clarke's grandson contacted my aunt to inform her she was in possession of them at her home in Milton, Wisconsin – just three miles away from our farm! The books were filled with vivid descriptions and histories of the 1,200 children he placed, as well as photos of many of them, including my grandmother's wedding photo.

As early as the 1870's, the system of placing out came under close scrutiny and, at times, criticism from the philanthropic world. Peer organizations, as well as the boards of state charities, began to file complaints against the system, and its possible

abuses. In 1874, at the National Prison Reform Conference, a delegate complained that for "the past twelve or fifteen years, car loads of criminal juveniles . . . vagabonds, and gutter snipes" had been sent west, specifically to Wisconsin. The next year, at a Conference of Charities and Correction, Wisconsin and eight other states joined against the system. The complaints were general, but leaned toward a concern over the character of the destitute. It was not until 1927 that states began to take action. That year, twelve states – Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Maryland, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, and Nebraska – still allowed indenture of their institutional charges and of children who had been turned over to county authorities or poor farms. These states were pushed into the national limelight with calls for them to abolish the practice for "more intelligent child care services". Pressure increased when the national Children's Bureau published its study of indenture in Wisconsin. A study in the publication *School and Society* in 1929 cited children who were "worked virtually as unpaid servants in



Hundreds of children were grouped by age on each of several floors of the New York Foundling Asylum, founded in 1869 as the Catholic equivalent to the predominantly Protestant Children's Aid Society.



LEFT: Emily Reese married Earl Kidder on 20 March 1912 and finally found lasting happiness and stability that so eluded her while growing up. Their marriage lasted 74 years. *Courtesy of the author* RIGHT: The author's grandmother, Emily (Reese) Kidder. She ultimately found happiness after surviving a tumultuous childhood and multiple abuses as an orphan train rider. *Courtesy of the author*



households and on farms, often deprived of schooling and . . . sometimes cruelly treated”.

I have a greater appreciation and empathy than ever before for my grandmother, Emily, who was like a second mother to me while I was growing up. Had she not boarded that orphan train in New

York in 1906, where would she have ended up? The sequence of events that brought her to the Midwest, where she met and was married to my grandfather for seventy-four years, are almost too incredible to believe.

I looked in on my grandmother on the evening of 21 November

1986 and found she had passed away peacefully in her sleep. She was ninety-four years old. On the dresser next to her bed was the little brass brooch she carried with her on the orphan train – the one that held the photo of the father she never really knew. She'd kept it close to her, cherishing it, for nearly eight decades.

On 23 May 1929, the Children's Aid Society sent three boys to Sulphur Springs, Texas on what is regarded by many as the last orphan train – effectively closing what is now a little-known chapter in America's history. *Em*

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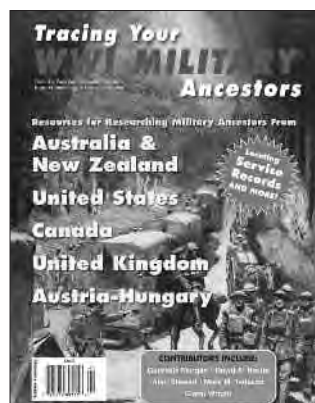
CLARK KIDDER resides in southern Wisconsin. He is an award-winning film producer and writer, and is the author of numerous nonfiction books. His latest work is a six-volume history of the rural schools of Rock County, Wisconsin.

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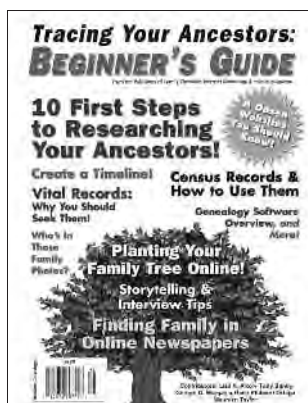
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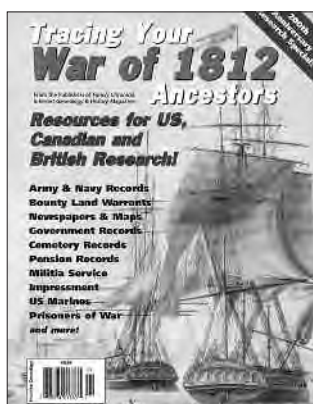
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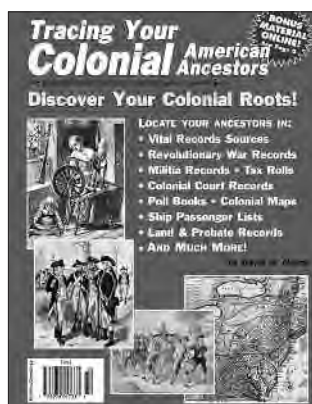
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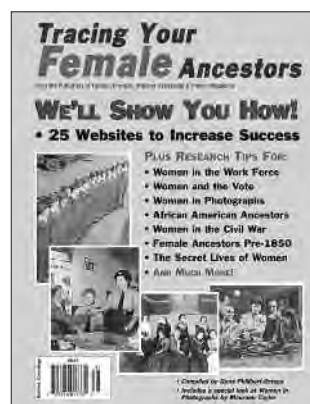
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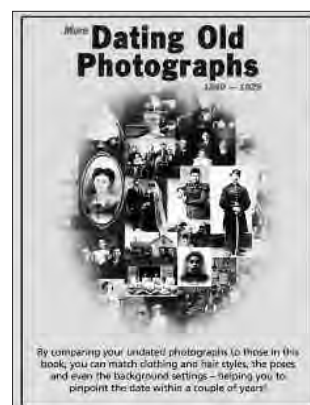
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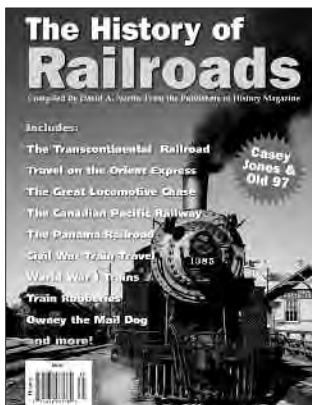


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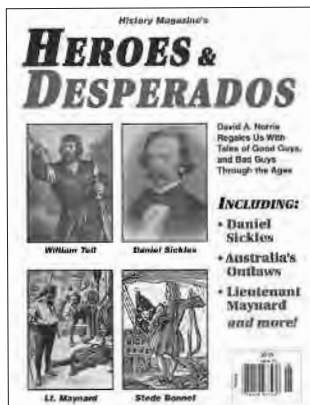
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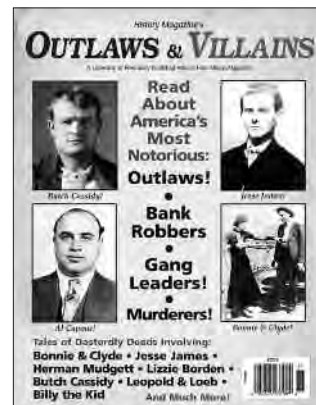
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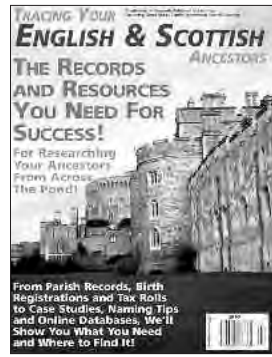
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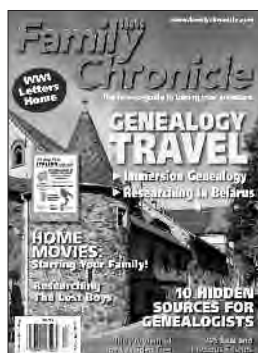


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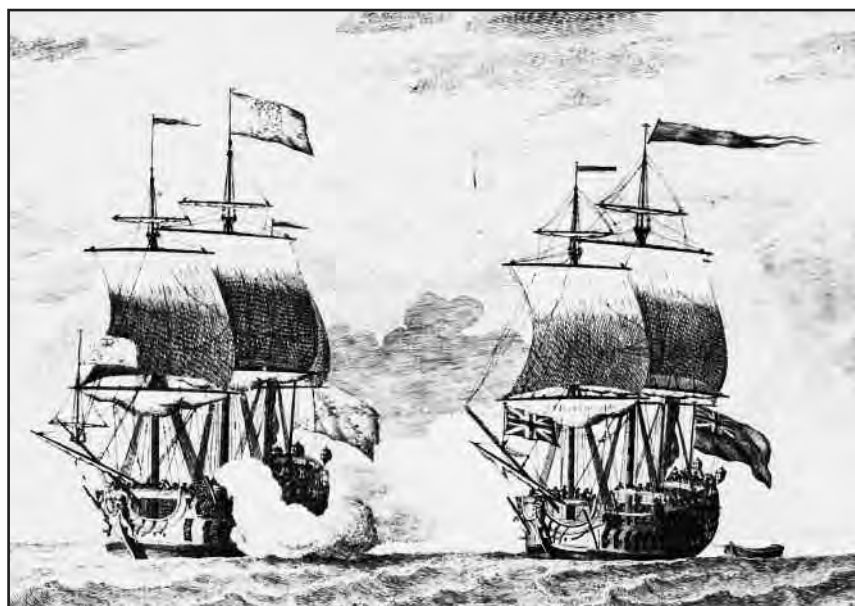
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After early successes, most English campaigns during the War of Jenkins' Ear failed. One exception was the voyage of Capt. George Anson. In a voyage lasting almost four years, his ship, the *Centurion*, circled the globe and captured a spectacular haul of treasure from a Spanish treasure ship off the Philippines.

gave Spain the right to inspect English merchant ships to check for violations of the agreement, and some officials conducted zealous searches and confiscated British cargos.

It was in April 1731 that the road to the next major war started. Capt. Robert Jenkins left Jamaica in his ship, the *Rebecca*, with a mixed cargo of mainly sugar. On 9 April 1731, Jenkins' ship was becalmed off Havana. A Spanish *guarda costa* vessel approached, propelled through the windless seas by eight pairs of oars. About 50 Spanish sailors boarded the *Rebecca*, supposedly looking for "Money, Logwood, Hydes, or Tallow" illegally obtained from their colonies.

Finding no contraband, the Spanish sailors ransacked the ship. They stole Jenkins' money and his silver shoe buckles. Believing there was much more money on board, they tortured Jenkins by putting a rope around his neck and hoisting him off the deck. One of them sliced his ear with a cutlass, and another tore off the ear and handed it to him. After ransacking the ship, the *guarda costa* crew let the *Rebecca* go.

Jenkins had a difficult voyage to London, as the Spanish stole all of Jenkins' navigational instruments. When the *Rebecca* reached England, the outraged captain told his story to the press. Newspapers in London, and eventually North America, repeated the story. But, anger over the event died down and the incident disappeared from the public consciousness for several years.

THE WAR OF JENKINS' EAR

DAVID A. NORRIS EXAMINES A TUMULTUOUS PERIOD IN 18TH CENTURY SPANISH-ENGLISH RELATIONS

Wars are usually named for their dates, locations, participants, or other expected factors. But, only one international conflict had a name like "The War of Jenkins' Ear".

Conflict between Spain and England simmered for years before the war formally broke out in 1739. British merchants resented Spanish laws and regulations that restricted free trade with Spain's New World colonies. Spanish merchants and officials, on the other hand, were becoming fed up with British smugglers operating in Spanish possessions in the Caribbean and along the American coast. Pirate raids, conducted by ships manned for the most part with English crews, aggravated relations between the two nations.

After the end of the War of the Spanish Succession (known in the British colonies as "Queen Anne's War"), in 1714, Spain granted Great Britain an *asiento*. This was a trading agreement that allowed the British to sell unlimited numbers of slaves and one shipload of consumer goods to the Spanish colonies each year. A great deal of cheating went on. Allegedly, a single English ship was unloaded by small boats, and constantly replenished with fresh cargo. Three minor wars broke out between England and Spain during the postwar years. A treaty

Stoked by merchants and ship-
pers, national resentment at
Spanish treatment of British mer-
chant ships steadily grew in the
1730s. Jenkins returned to the
public eye in 1738. He went before
Parliament and displayed his
severed ear. Various, the ear is
described as preserved in a bottle,
or wrapped in padding and kept
in a small box. Robert Walpole,
the Prime Minister, was trying to
avoid another war with Spain, but
his opponents made considerable
political capital from Jenkins'
story and numerous other real
and perceived slights by the Span-
ish. Political pressure mounted
until England declared war on
Spain on 23 October 1739. Church
bells pealed to celebrate
the outbreak of war. Walpole said
of the rejoicing, "They may ring
the bells now; before long, they
will be wringing their hands."

Admiral Edward Vernon led
Britain's opening moves of the
war. With a squadron of six ships-
of-the-line and a little 20-gun
vessel, he captured Porto Bello (in



A Spanish officer halted the ship of Capt. Robert Jenkins in 1731. Here, Jenkins' wig is removed, as he shows his severed ear to Prime Minister Robert Walpole. This satirical print mocked Walpole for his reluctance to declare war on Spain over numerous incidents such as the Jenkins incident. Despite Walpole's objections, "The War of Jenkins' Ear" began in 1739.

what is now Panama) in Novem-
ber 1739. Porto Bello was a small
fort and it surrendered two
days after it was confronted by
Vernon's much superior forces.
The minor battle was greeted as a
spectacular triumph far beyond

any conceivable importance it
could have had in England.
London's Portobello Road, a street
now famed for its antiques and
street market, was named at this
time in honor of Vernon's victory.
Dozens of commemorative me-
dallions and other souvenirs were
produced.

The next year, success contin-
ued as his forces captured
Chagres, another small Spanish
fort in modern-day Panama. With
two victories chalked up, London
planned a much more ambitious
operation. In 1740, with Vernon
in command of the naval contin-
gent, the British sent well over
100 ships with as many as 24,000
sailors and soldiers to besiege
Cartagena, a Spanish colonial
city in New Granada (what is now
Columbia).

Cartagena, a formidable target,
was protected by extensive lime-
stone walls. There was even a
school of military engineering in
the city. The city's commander
was a Spanish admiral of Basque
descent named Blas de Lezo y
Olavarrieta. As a young officer at



Rear Admiral Edward Vernon captured the Spanish town of Porto Bello, in the Isthmus of Panama, early in the War of Jenkins' Ear. Some of Porto Bello's old walls are seen here in this c.1910 photograph. *Library of Congress*

the turn of the 18th century, de Lezo fought against the English in the War of the Spanish Succession. Before he was 25, he'd lost his left eye, left arm, and his right leg in the service of his king.

Besides its castle-like walls, Cartagena had even deadlier defenses: the swamp-dwelling mosquitoes that infected the besiegers with malaria and yellow fever. Local inhabitants had some immunity to the diseases, but most of the English and their colonial allies had none.

Lord Charles Cathcart, originally appointed as commander of the expedition, died at sea on the way from England. With Cathcart dead, Vernon and army commander Maj. Gen. Thomas Wentworth clashed with each other and were unable to plan an effective campaign against the city.

With Vernon were about 3,400 volunteers from throughout the North American colonies, marking one of the first times that soldiers from what became the US were sent to fight overseas.

The British were optimistic after de Lezo withdrew his outnumbered army into the Fortress of San Felipe de Barajas. Tidings of a certain victory were sent to London. The country celebrated the news, and victory medallions for the Cartagena Expedition appeared.

But, the British campaign advanced no further. Blas de Lezo held on, and the British ranks were slaughtered by tropical fever. At last, after 67 days of siege warfare, the British re-embarked on their ships and sailed away.



Admiral Edward Vernon was successful early in the war, but his later campaign against Cartagena was a disastrous failure. Vernon kept the admiration of a Virginia volunteer officer, Lawrence Washington, who named the family plantation Mount Vernon in honor of the admiral.



Gov. James Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, led the colony's resistance to the Spanish in Florida during the War of Jenkins' Ear. Library of Congress

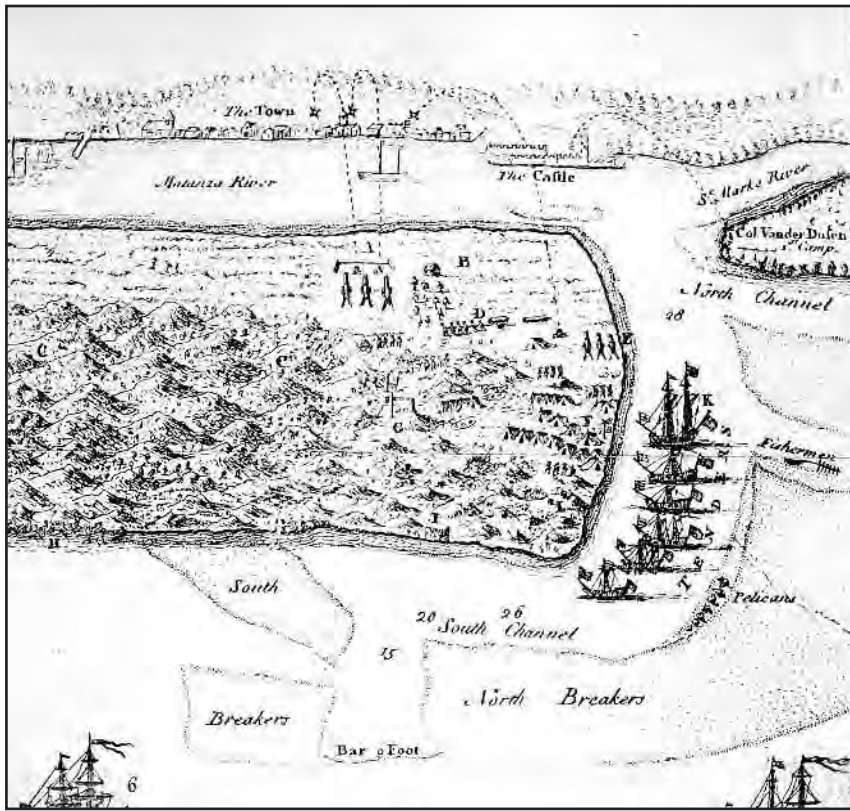
Before Vernon and Wentworth abandoned the campaign, about one third of the regular troops, and a much heavier proportion of his American colonial volunteers died, mainly from disease. The dead were left buried in Columbia.

Among the volunteers was a Virginian, Lawrence Washington, who was the older half-brother of future president George Washington. The Washington family plantation, Mount Vernon, was named for the admiral.

Victory medallions were hastily withdrawn by the embarrassed British authorities. One laughably unsuitable medallion showed de Lezo kneeling and presenting his sword in surrender to Admiral Vernon. Later in the war, Horace Walpole bitterly commented in a letter, "We have already lost seven millions of money and thirty thousand men in the Spanish war and all the fruit of all this blood and treasure is the glory of having Admiral Vernon's head on ale-house signs."

The War of Jenkins' Ear was a minor conflict, as European wars went. Fighting was confined to the high seas and the colonies, without England or Spain invading each other. But, the war put the newest of Britain's "Thirteen Colonies" in peril. Georgia, founded in 1733, bordered the established British colony of South Carolina to the north, but to the south were the hostile dominions of Spanish Florida.

Adding to the tensions between the colonial powers, Spanish authorities in Florida welcomed escaped slaves from Georgia or the English colonies to the north. The refugees settled at an outpost north of St. Augustine called Fort Mose (pronounced "mo-say"). Male escapees were enrolled as soldiers in the Spanish colonial militia.



Georgia, the southernmost and newest of the "Thirteen Colonies", was heavily involved in the War of Jenkins' Ear. Georgian militia and British forces unsuccessfully attacked the town of St. Augustine in Spanish Florida, seen here is this bird's-eye view, but managed to repel Spanish counterattacks on Georgia.

In 1740, Governor James Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia, led an attack on St. Augustine, Florida. They captured Fort Mose, but failed to take St. Augustine. On 26 June, Spanish troops and the black militia recaptured Fort Mose and drove Oglethorpe back to Georgia.

Spain, in turn, attacked St. Simon's Island, in Georgia. Oglethorpe repelled this Spanish attack. A British deserter went to the enemy with news that the colony was weak and could easily fall. To discredit the deserter, a phony letter was written to say that the deserter was a British spy sent to lure the Spanish to their destruction. The deserter was executed and the war on the Georgia-Florida frontier quieted down.

During the war, Spain's colonial fortifications and troops held out well against the British operations. Britain's greatest success

was an expedition that took nearly four years to pay off. Capt. George Anson set out in September 1740 with a small squadron to attack the Spanish colonies on the Pacific coast of the Americas. Among his targets was the annual treasure ship that sailed from the Philippines, then also a Spanish colony, to Acapulco.

Scraping the bottom of the barrel to man Anson's ships, the Admiralty ordered 500 invalids turned out of Chelsea Hospital, a facility that cared for soldiers pensioned from the army. Most of the Chelsea pensioners deserted or died. Storms and severe outbreaks of scurvy and other diseases whittled down his force.

They captured some Spanish ships, but at last, gave up the mission. To get back to England, Anson would complete an around-the-world voyage by crossing the Pacific and rounding the Cape of Good Hope.

In Macau, Anson learned of the planned sailing of a richly laden galleon from Manila. He decided on one last roll of the dice to bring success to his assignment. By this time, he was down to one ship, the *Centurion*, and only about 200 men, including the remnants of his other crews. They intercepted the galleon, *Nuestra Señora de Covadonga*, off the Philippines on 20 June 1743. Anson lacked enough men to fully work his guns, so he placed two men to load each cannon. Then, rotating crews flew from one gun to the next to aim and fire them. The *Covadonga* was in even worse shape for fighting a naval battle, and fell to the *Centurion*.

Aboard the galleon was a spectacular cargo of treasure of over 1,300,000 pieces of eight and over one ton of silver. The *Centurion* made it back to England on 15 June 1744. Anson and the survivors who made it to England divided one of the richest piles of prize money in the history of the Royal Navy.

Anson's voyage was of minor strategic importance, but provided a bright note for England as the War of Jenkins' Ear was entangled and submerged in European politics. A dispute over the succession to the throne of Austria intensified into the War of the Austrian Succession. All of Europe's major powers were pulled into this larger war, nearly every major power in Europe. At the center of the conflict, eventually, were the old enemies, Great Britain and France, the world's two largest "superpowers" of the time.

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The English-Spanish conflict in the New World became something of a sideshow. Called "King George's War" in the American colonies, this wider 1743-1748 war saw Indian attacks on the frontiers; privateer raids on the Atlantic coast; and the conquest of the French stronghold of Louisbourg in Canada by a force of New England militia and ships.

As for Captain Jenkins, he spent most of his life after the Havana incident sailing with the East India Company. For a time, he was the governor of the remote Atlantic island of St. Helena (the place where Napoleon I would be exiled decades later).

Some historians over the years have backed Jenkin's story, and there is ample testimony from his lifetime to back his version.

However, it's been said that after his death, his ears were found still attached to his head and perfectly normal. The site of the alleged injury, according to these tales, was amply covered for years by the long wigs worn by fashionable gentlemen of the era. There seems to be enough documentation, though, that Jenkins was truly missing one of his ears. But, it's also been suggested that Jenkins had lost his ear in some other way before the Spanish boarded his ship in 1731.

The Anglo-Spanish war that broke out in 1739 did not even get its lasting name until 1858. In that year, the historian Thomas Carlyle wrote a biography of Prussian monarch Frederick the Great, and, in this book, he dubbed the colonial war "The War of Jenkins' Ear". In Spain, the war is called *La Guerra del Asiento* (after the trade agreement), or in a literal translation of the English version, *La Guerra de la Oreja de Jenkins*. *Am*

DAVID A. NORRIS is a regular contributor to *History Magazine*, *Internet Genealogy* and *Your Genealogy Today*. His newest special issue for *Moorshead Magazines Ltd.*, *Tracing Your Revolutionary War Ancestors*, will be available **1 September 2015**.



French infantry, like those pictured above, commanded a strong defensive position at Riedisheim.

FIRST BLOOD AT MULHOUSE

IN AN EXCERPT FROM HIS BOOK, *IMPERIAL GERMANY'S "IRON REGIMENT" OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR*, JOHN K. RIETH OFFERS SOME INSIGHT INTO THE OPENING BATTLE OF WORLD WAR I

"One would hardly believe that it would come to a war. We were of the opinion that the thunderclouds would move away once more, and we told ourselves that no one would take the responsibility to call for a war involving the entire world." August 2, 1914.

These are the words of Albert Rieth, a trumpeter with Imperial Germany's Infantry Regiment 169 (IR 169) in the opening days of the First World War. In less than a week, the troops of IR 169 would be thrust from their comfortable garrison town on the edge of Germany's peaceful Black Forest into the horrors of one of the first major blood-lettings of World War I – the Battle of Mulhouse.

Barely a month had passed since a South Slav nationalist murdered the Austro-Hungarian heir apparent in Sarajevo – setting off a cascade of events that propelled Europe into war. Imperial Germany's fate was

cast on the execution of the Von Schlieffen Plan, which called for a rapid, knockout blow against France, followed by a pivot east to conquer Russia. France's pre-war doctrine, Plan 17, committed their armies in a bold offensive to reclaim the Alsace-Lorraine provinces, cross the Rhine and

then march into the heart of Germany. Once Kaiser Wilhelm signed the mobilization order on August 1, 1914, there was no turning back; Europe was at war. As Germany mobilized five armies to sweep into France from the north, France's southernmost punch landed at the Alsace city of Mulhouse.

The long-disputed Alsace-Lorraine Provinces that ran along the southern German/French borders were at the center stage in the opening days of the war. France's loss of its Alsace and Lorraine Provinces to Germany, a result of their 1871 defeat in the Franco-Prussian War, was a source of national humiliation. With the outbreak of war, the French Army moved quickly to reverse this outrage by mobilizing the 250,000 man First Army along the western Alsace border. The French VII Corps, under the command of Gen. Louis Bonneau in the fortress city of Belfort, led the invasion. Bonneau's objective was to cross over the Vosges Mountains, seize the cities of Mulhouse and Colmar and establish a bridgehead over the Rhine. On 6 August, the VII Corps vanguard charged through the border town of Altkirch and easily brushed off a small German frontier force. After an unopposed 15-mile march, French troops entered Mulhouse on 8 August. A prominent industrial city known for its textile manufacturing, Mulhouse sat six miles west of the Rhine, the longstanding German border, and ten miles north of Basel, Switzerland.

Barbara Tuchman, writing in *Guns of August*, described the French arrival in Mulhouse:

"The French cavalry in gleaming uniforms galloped through the streets. Almost dumbfounded at this sudden apparition, the

majority of the residents stood first in transfixed silence, and then gradually broke into joy. A grand review of the French troops lasting two hours was held in the main square. Bands played "La Marseillaise," and guns were draped with flowers of red, white, and blue. From all windows flags and handkerchiefs waved and even the roofs were covered with cheering masses."

As the French Army celebrated, the Germans readied for action. Retaking Mulhouse, located near the apex of the German, French and Swiss borders, was critically important in retaining control of this southernmost portion of the Western Front. With five of Germany's seven western front armies committed to invading



Hornist Albert Rieth. A bugler in IR 169's 9th Company, Rieth's journal recorded his experience at the August 9, 1914 Battle of Mulhouse. *Author's Collection*



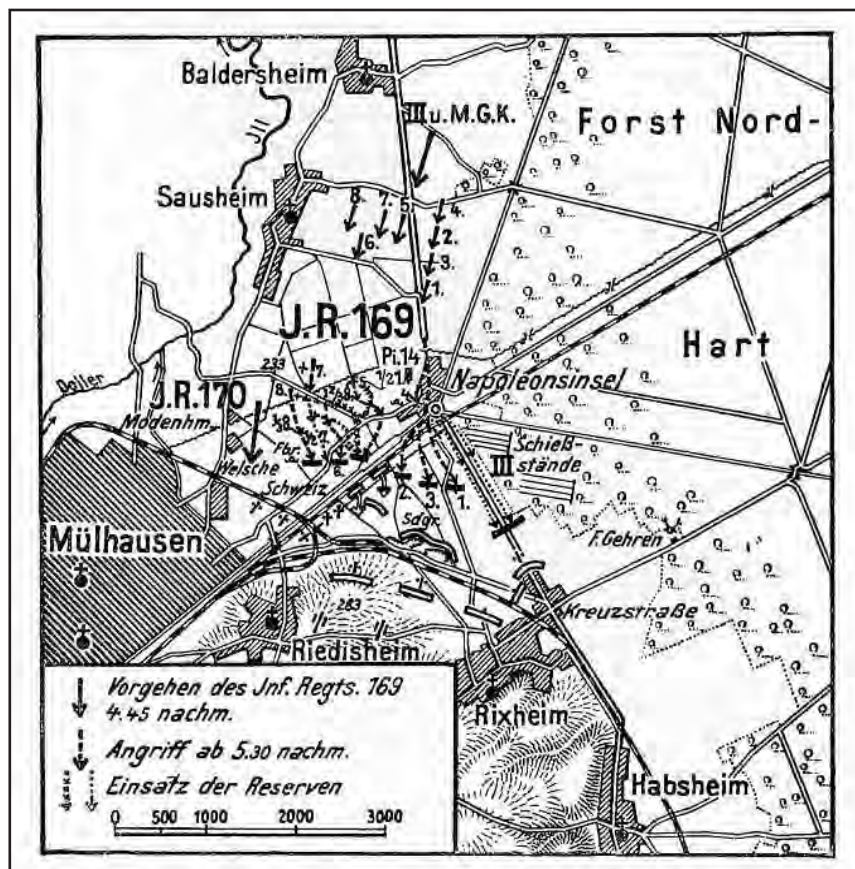
On August 6, 1914, the French Army launched an incursion to reclaim the Alsace Province. The French occupied Mulhouse on August 8, which set the stage for the German counterattack on the following day's battle.

France in the north, the task to reclaim Mulhouse fell to General von Heeringen's Seventh Army.

The Germans XIV Corps, comprised of 44,000 troops based in the southern state of Baden, was the hammer of the Seventh Army strike force. One of the ten infantry regiments in XIV Corps was IR 169, of the 29th Division. With a pre-war strength of 3,500 troops, IR 169 spent the opening week of the war readying for combat deployment. Albert Rieth's journal describes his battalion's departure from the garrison town of Villingen and the nighttime journey through the center of the Black Forest.

"Finally the time to march out arrived, August 8, at 3:00 am. We marched to the train station where naturally the entire town was present to wish the young battalion the last farewell. We embarked with the song "Must I Then Leave the Little Town." The train started moving and the song finally diminished. One could only hear the vague hum of the wheels, and some told high-spirited jokes. But most thought about their loved ones, and some thought of the words "Who knows if we will ever see each other again!"

The regiment assembled at the Rhine river town of Neuenburg, 20 miles northeast of Mulhouse.



IR 169 approached Mulhouse from the North, crossed over a canal at Napoleonsinsel and assaulted the heights of Riedisheim. *Die Badener im Weltkrieg*, G. Braun

Rieth's journal continued:

"No sooner were we with our quartering hosts, the order came for me to report to the captain, and before long I had to give the 'charge' bugle call, as we were ordered to man the trenches across from the Rhine bridge. We heard the first cannon thunder from Fortress Istein, and it felt like maneuvers, but we learned differently the following day. It was our first mission to protect the bridge over the Rhine at Neuneburg and to man a trench on the other side forming a great arc. The night was perfectly quiet, except for the sounds of Fortress Istein grumbling madly all night, the mysterious rushing of the Rhine, and the firm footsteps of the soldiers continuously crossing the bridge to hold the loyal watch on the Rhine."

The French army, now alert to the coming German attack, prepared a hasty defense across a 15-mile long front. The French line extended 9 miles out from Mulhouse and continued east atop the heights at the suburb village of Riedisheim. Control of the high ground at Riedisheim was particularly significant, as it covered the Rhine canals that served as a natural obstacle to any enemy attack.

The Seventh Army intended to make a two-pronged attack on Mulhouse beginning in the early hours of August 9. The two divisions of XV Corps were to attack the French left on the outskirts of the city while XIV Corp's 28th and 29th Divisions would directly strike Mulhouse and the high ground on the French right. The miserably humid weather rendered ten percent of German

combatants down as heat casualties. Rieth wrote of IR 169's advance from the Rhine River to the attack assembly area.

"Finally, on Sunday, August 9, we vacated the trench at 6 am and moved in the direction of Mulhouse, where there were already small skirmishes between advanced guard posts. We marched along a seemingly endless straight road, and the sun burned down from the cloudless sky, making the march almost indescribably difficult if one considers the heavy load of equipment of an infantryman. In addition, the new boots were burning and gave you the feeling of walking barefoot through a mowed cornfield. The cannon thunder came nearer, and soon we could distinguish rifle fire as we marched along the street that led to the canal of Mulhouse. We then saw a picture of an endless column settled upon by a cloud of dust. There was not a bit of air and it seemed like we were suffocating. Some of the men were becoming quite pathetic, with their legs staggering as if they would collapse. Although each one pulled himself together, their faces looked feverish as if a heat stroke was imminent."

The heat contributed to significant delays in the German advance, and it was not until late afternoon that IR 169 finally neared its attack point. The regiment's task was to secure Hill 283, a steep mass on which sat the small crossroad village of Riedisheim. A canal section and railway station known as Napoleonsinsel stood in the path of the German advance. To close in with the French defenders, the Germans would have to cross the canal and rail embankment and then advance nearly one mile

across the open terrain. The German intelligence assessment that this position was held by only a weak picket line could not have been more erroneous. The French entrenched on Hill 283 owned a commanding field of fire with plenty of infantry, supported by machine-guns and artillery, prepared to defend it.

IR 169's advance guard fanned out through the fields and farmland as the three infantry battalions marched in a long column along a dirt road. The dust rose in huge clouds, choking those troops in the trailing companies. Nearing Napoleonsinsel, the regiment went into attack formation, with 1st Battalion (Companies 1-4) on the left, 2nd Battalion (Companies 5-8), on the right, and 3rd Battalion (Companies 9-12), along with the regiment's machine-gun company, following 1st Battalion as the regiment's reserve.

Albert Rieth, serving as the trumpeter for the 9th Company Commander, wrote of the battle's opening moments:

"Suddenly the order came to rest rifles near the train station of Napoleonsinsel, one of the last stations before Mulhouse. We stacked the rifles and fell asleep by the side of the road because of the terrible exhaustion. All of a sudden a hissing and terrible burst, the first enemy artillery shell landed in the canal, causing a great fountain. But we could not admire this spectacle because soon a second, a third, and finally a downpour followed so that we quickly sought cover behind the railroad embankment. We could not deploy, as only a few would have made it across the embankment, so we could do nothing but stay behind it."

The French let loose a terrible fury of rifle, machine-gun, and



Colonel General Josias von Herringen, the pre-war Prussian Minister of War, commanded the German 7th Army during the Battle of Mulhouse.

artillery fire across the entire regimental front. On the German right, the exposed four companies of 2nd Battalion were fully engulfed in the firestorm. Three of the four companies were soon trapped on the far side of the embankment, with the 7th

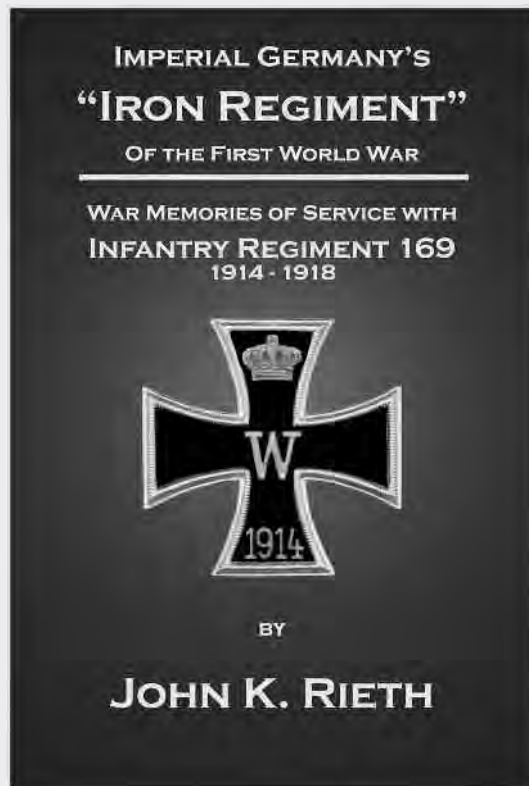
Company's commander and executive officer immediately killed. In the space of moments, one third of IR 169's strength was immobilized. On the regiment's left flank, the 1st and 3rd Battalions crossed the canal and took cover on the railway embankment by the train station. The 1st Battalion charged over the embankment and were ripped to pieces as soon as the men crossed over the train tracks. Just minutes into the battle, two thirds of the regiment were pinned down only yards past their starting point while absorbing heavy casualties.

The 3rd Battalion, along with the regiment's machine-gun battalion, were ordered into the maelstrom as nightfall approached. This attack made only slightly better progress before starting to falter. Rieth wrote what happened next:

"Our captain and battalion adjutant were killed because they had remained in a dangerous position too long, and thus died the hero's death after only being



These two IR 169 infantrymen depict the German soldier in the early period of the First World War. Drake Goodman Collection



IMPERIAL GERMANY'S "IRON REGIMENT" OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR WAR MEMORIES OF SERVICE WITH INFANTRY REGIMENT 169. 1914 -1918

By Lt. Col. John K. Rieth, USA-Ret.

Inspired by the wartime journal of the author's grandfather, Albert Rieth, this book offers a rare, English-language history of a German regiment that fought through some of the heaviest combat of the Great War. Much of the book is based on first-hand soldier accounts. The Iron Regiment's wartime journey spanned from the war's first bloodshed at the Battle of Mulhouse in August 1914 and continued through its destruction at the hand of US Marines and Army tanks in the Meuse-Argonne Forest in November 1918.

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in battle for less than half an hour. The major wanted to advance with a company but it was impossible, he too soon came back with a bullet hole in his lower body. Our regimental adjutant was hit on his horse while he was relaying an order, with a fragment of shrapnel caving in his skull. 3rd Battalion was just about to retreat when our major appeared with a dangerous wound in the abdomen. Holding his saber in his fist, and without a uniform jacket, he shouted to us: "Men before we retreat from these scoundrels even one half step, we should all wish to die!" This had a powerful effect, and with a "hurrah," we went over the embankment. One platoon of the company had to remain back to give cover for the four machine-guns. The machine-guns fired murderously, but since our fighting line had advanced already, we also had to go forward. To follow the front lines, we crossed the yard

when a terrible shelling came through the roof of the paper factory and exploded in the yard where we were. We had no choice but to leap across the yard. We made it just in time because a new steel rain began. I laid flat on the ground behind a big bale of paper stacked by one of the buildings. There I had the dubious pleasure to hear and see what artillery

shells look like when they detonate at a distance of 3 - 4 meters away. I believed the earth was torn to pieces, and the shrapnel flew about my ears so I could neither hear nor see."

The factory, blasted by a cross-fire of both friendly and enemy artillery fire, collapsed upon Rieth. Dazed, he lay trapped in



Pictured here shortly after the battle, the train station at Napoleonsinsel was a central landmark in the battle.

ruins through the night and recorded this scene the following morning:

"During dawn I crept away from the factory through a small aperture. But what a view presented itself there, I still think about it with a shudder! A few steps away from me lay a rider and his horse, both dead, and a musician's carriage totally shot to pieces. This was my road to reality after I had spent the whole night half unconscious under the debris. Soon I met a comrade from my company and went with him to the train station in Napoleonsinsel. There lay our captain and the battalion adjutant; both had suffered to their end."

Although IR 169 made little gain in its attack at Riedisheim, the Seventh Army was able to fracture the French lines in other

locations before Mulhouse. French commander Bonneau, despite being able to push off the worst of the German attacks, feared his forces were at the breaking point and retreated back to the protection of the Belfort fortresses. The Alsace remained in German hands for the next four years and finally returned to French control after the German Empire's defeat in 1918.

Mulhouse casualties were estimated at 4,000 French and 3,000 German losses. IR 169's toll was severe, with the regiment's field journal listing 23 officers (8 killed) and 544 enlisted men killed or wounded. Much worse bloodshed would soon follow. In the next three weeks, bitter struggles in the Battle of the Frontiers at Sarrebourg and Baccarat cost IR 169 another 1,650 casualties. By the end of 1914, IR 169's attrition rate was over 100% of

initial strength. Albert Rieth was fortunate to survive the war. In January of 1915, he was wounded at the Flanders' Battle of La Bassee and was discharged from further service. He emigrated to the United States in the mid 1920's and resided in Providence, RI, where he died in 1970 at age 78.

HR

The author, JOHN K. RIETH, a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel, is the grandson of Albert Rieth. In 2014, John published a complete history of IR 169 titled Imperial Germany's 'Iron Regiment' of the First World War; War Memories of Service with Infantry Regiment 169, 1914-1918 (published by Badgley Publishing Company). Albert's complete wartime journal, written in March 1915, is included in this book.



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Photo of painting
(possibly German)
titled "Merry Company",
circa 1850.
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IT'S ALL IN THE CARDS

GLORIA TIETGENS SLADEK DEALS THE LOW-DOWN ON THE HISTORY AND POPULARITY OF PLAYING CARDS

If you're good at playing cards, and like to win, you know it takes a lot of practice and a bit of bluff. Therefore, there's some truth in the lyrics of "The Gambler", as popular country western star Kenny Rogers sings, "you've got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em".

Most people now and then, or more often, like to play a game of cards. There are hundreds of games, too many to mention – but bridge, canasta, poker and euchre are a few that are popular today. These games of chance and skill continue to fascinate. But how and when did these games begin?

As far back as the eighth century, card playing was happening in Arabia and Persia. It is believed that bands of roving gypsies may have carried the popularity of

card playing to Europe where, in the 1300s, these games of chance were prohibited on Sundays. Others believe that playing card games originated in China around that time and found their way to Europe. China invented paper and printing and some examples of cards can be traced as far back as 1294.

Yet no one seems to know for sure just where card playing originated, although, a deck of cards, now in the Topkapi Sarayi

Museum in Istanbul, was found by a Professor Leo A. Mayer in the Topkapi Palace in 1939. This Mamluk deck, as it is called, is named after warriors from early Egypt that lived about 1254 to around 1517. The number of spots on the cards number from 1 through 10. There were three court cards called king, viceroy, and second-deputy. These court cards showed abstract calligraphy designs, though none exist now. This Mamluk deck of cards could probably still be used, even now, in the games we play today, because of its 52 cards and 4 suits.

Egyptian cards are believed to have arrived in Europe through trading around the 14th century. A lot of similarity exists between those cards and those of today. There were four suits in a deck – namely Swords, Sticks, Cups and Coin. These eventually became our Clubs, Diamonds, Hearts and Spades.

Soldiers from France were able to carry cards in their pockets because of their small size. It's assumed they arrived in England that way and finally to America by explorers and service men. Early

decks, except those from France, did not have Queens. And until Victorian times, there were no Aces, but in each suit, a card with only the number “1”. Cards today still wear red and black spots (or pips) because these are easy to read.

It's interesting that the 4 card suits relate to our 4 seasons, the 52 cards relate to the weeks in a year, and the 13 cards in each suit relate to the cycles of the moon. But, an even more interesting fact is if we add the spots of each card in the deck, they add up to 364 – add the Joker and we get 365 – the exact number of days in our calendar year.

Because early playing cards were made by hand, they were extremely expensive and only the very wealthy could afford them. But as paper quality improved, and became more available, even the average person could buy good quality decks.

But soon, there was a problem, as gambling became popular. It was believed this would lead to more immoral behavior in the lower classes. Cards were thought to possibly even be the cause of drunkenness, dishonesty, and crimes. For this reason, the church and state began to control gambling, and sermons were preached against it. Later, cards were actually forbidden; they could only be played during the 12 days of Christmas.

In Germany, gambling for large amounts of money was punishable by a fine. And St. Bernadine of Bologna, Italy, was so successful in declaring playing cards as evil, that

more than a thousand decks were burned in a public bonfire.

A mention of cards is listed in the account books of Johanna, Duchess of Brabant, and Wenceslaus I, Duke of Luxemburg. The notation dated 14 May 1379 names the amount of money “wherewith to buy a pack of cards”. In about 1392, Charles Poupert, treasurer for Charles VI of France, ordered a payment for three decks of cards to be painted.

There are no samples of printed cards dating before 1423. But it was during Charles VI reign that printed woodcut decks appeared. Originally, the woodcuts made for printing on fabric were then used to print on paper. None of these can be found today.

In Germany, from about 1418 to 1450, woodcuts were stenciled or hand colored. Still later, they were most likely painted.

Kings were always the highest card in each suit, though now the Ace or lowest card is sometimes the highest card. Another change occurred when the card value was printed at the corners, allowing players to “fan” their cards close together using only one hand.

The backsides of earlier cards were blank, and it was a delight when they began printing different designs or pictures on them. This also helped to prevent cheating by writing on the backside, which would give away the card value.

Reversible cards were patented in Great Britain in 1799, removing the need for players to turn their cards right side up; other players couldn't get a hint by watching a player change the position of their cards.

The joker's debut became part of the deck about 1870 by the United States, and is still used today as a wild card in many card games. Some say its name came from the game Euchre – a different name for juker! Jokers have

become collectables as there is a wide range in their designs.

Playing cards are available with Braille characters or large-print for those visually impaired. Some cards omit the pip patterns, using only one large pip to identify the suit. Commonly, each card has two Braille characters, either vertical or horizontal. These characters help the person to know the card suit and denomination.

Today, card playing is considered an acceptable pastime almost everywhere. And you can customize your own decks for as little as \$69 or less, including shipping. Choose the design you like, and enjoy your own personalized playing cards.

There are numerous companies making cards, but probably the most recognized is the Bicycle card company. Their United States Playing Card Company was created in 1885 and continues to be in production. During World War II, the company worked with the US government in making special decks sent to American prisoners of war held in Germany. When these cards were moistened, sections of a map were revealed to show escape routes.

Cards continue to hold secrets. Because even though you may not be playing for money, you still always want the thrill of the win!

As we hold our hand of cards close to our chest to prevent our opponent from reading them, we are playing a game that has been going on for centuries. Just remember, it's all in the cards, but “you've got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold em”! *HM*

GLORIA TIETGENS SLADEK

is a freelance writer who loves to dwell in the history of ordinary things. She has written for children, women's fashion, and Christian magazines.

Reference Quicksheets

Here are some helpful guides



We have two great DNA quicksheet guides from Diane Southard. **Getting Started: Genetics for the Genealogist** explains what DNA can and can't do for your research. Identifies who in your family should be tested.

Explains privacy measures and more. **Y Chromosome DNA for the Genealogist** offers clear and concise explanations of: How to determine if the YDNA test is right for you and your research. What the YDNA test can tell you. Available separately.



Based on the book, **Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques** (McGraw-Hill, 2013) by George G. Morgan and Drew Smith, their **Brick Wall Research Strategies** quicksheet offers professional advice on how to overcome those frustrating brick walls that are inevitable in the course of doing family history research. If you have ever felt like giving up on a "difficult" ancestor, the tips included in this guide will help you to recharge your research and help get you back on the road to success.



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Masonry is one of the oldest, most popular and influential organizations in the U.S., Canada and Europe with just about every town having a Masonic Lodge. Pat Gordon's **Masonic Research** guide explains how to find Masonic records, including a comprehensive listing of Grand Lodges and Prince Hall Grand Lodges by state. Content includes: Background; Lodges; Becoming a Mason; Degrees; Offices; Genealogical Information; Grand Lodges by State; Prince Hall Grand Lodges by State, and much more!



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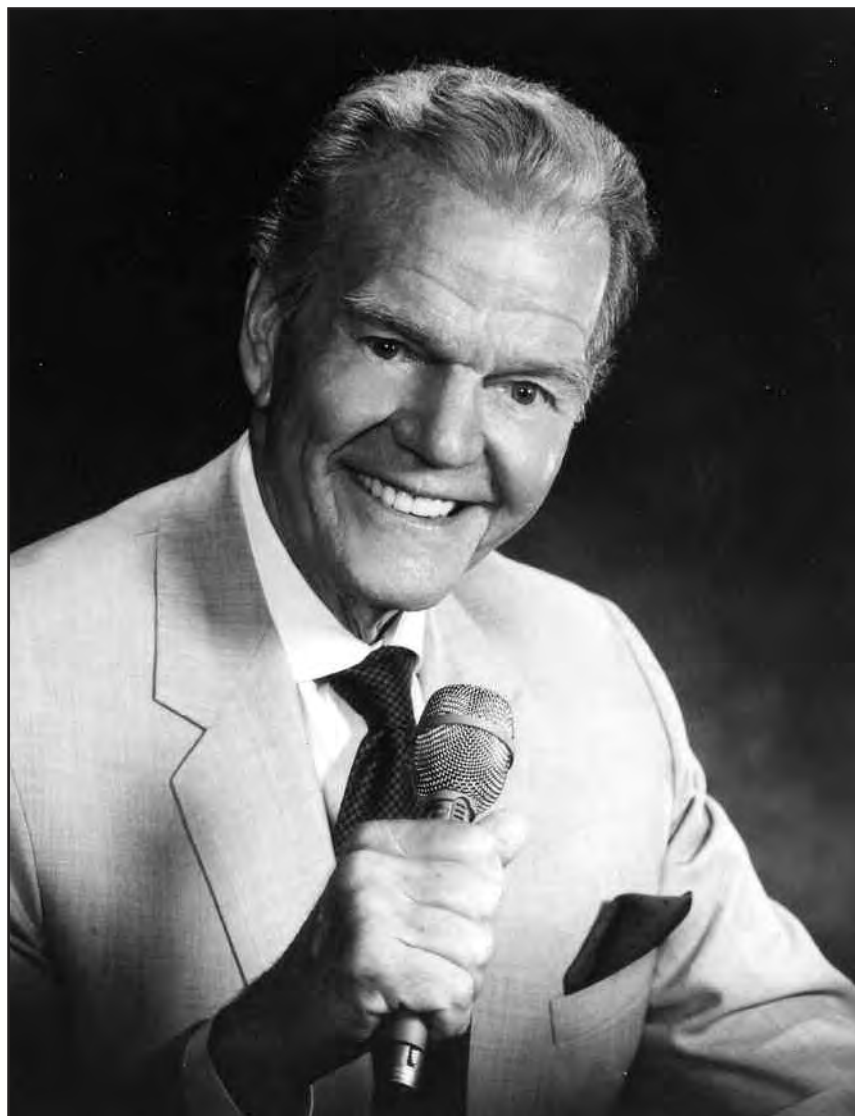
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Radio personality Paul Harvey. Courtesy
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HARVEY “PANNED FOR GOLD AND STRUCK IT RICH”

DOROTHY RIEKE LOOKS AT THE LIFE OF FAMED NEWSCASTER PAUL HARVEY

A newscaster presents news bulletins. In addition, this person may be a working news journalist, a news gatherer, and a script writer. Using material collected, this individual also prepares scripts for broadcasting.

Certain radio news broadcasters, utilizing their own personal styles to mix news with opinions, have been given the name commentators.

The last major figure presenting commentary in a news broadcast was the popular Paul Harvey, a pioneer radio broadcaster who became a legend in his own right. Each week, twenty-four million people listened to his broadcasts over twelve hundred radio stations and four hundred Armed Forces network stations. His commentaries were also printed in three hundred newspapers. His life story is, indeed, a history of radio.

Each morning and noon, he narrated America's story day-by-day through wars, the murky clouds of communism, failing economies, racial tensions, and terrorists' threats. He presented news in a language everyone understood.

Perhaps the most impressive quality about Paul Harvey was that he exhibited optimism and faith with a deep love and hope for America. He was patriotic and displayed that quality in his broadcasts.

His greeting “Hello, Americans!” was followed by a “folksy delivery” with “dramatic pauses and quirky intonations”. In addition, he held old-fashioned opinions and was politically and socially conservative. He was well-received in nearly every segment of America's population.

His unique way of inserting commercials into his text resulted in listeners listening to commercials before realizing they were being aired. Harvey once reflected, “I am fiercely loyal to those willing to put their money where my mouth is.” Also, during difficult times, he once commented, “The best news in the broadcast is the commercial.”

He endorsed such products as Eden-Pure heaters, Bose radios, Select Comfort mattresses, and Hi-Health dietary supplements. Someone once remarked that Harvey only endorsed products

that he thought were good.

Paul Harvey Aurandt was born 4 September 1918. At an early age, he became interested in radios, constructing a radio set to receive distant signals. Later, his teacher, Isabelle Ronan, was impressed with his voice. His intimate, powerful, and precise voice had a “clarion clarity which was an elocution teacher’s pride”.

At the age of fourteen, with his teacher’s recommendation, he worked cleaning at Radio Station KVOO in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was eventually allowed to read commercials and news on the air. Because he was interested in radio, he worked as a radio station program director in Salina, Kansas, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and in St. Louis, Missouri.

During the early forties, he moved to the Hawaiian Islands because he was gathering news about the United States Navy fleet based there. In December 1943, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. In a training accident, he injured his heel and was given a psychiatric discharge in 1944.

In June of that year, he began broadcasting at Station WENR in Chicago, Illinois. It was there that he became very popular with broadcasts weekday mornings and mid-days and at noon on Saturdays.

Always intent on assisting others, he instituted an employment program, “Jobs for G I Joe”. This helped former servicemen find jobs.

With his popularity booming, Harvey began airing his in-depth feature stories, “The Rest of the Story”, a blend of “mystery and history”. These were based on little-known facts from the lives of famous people.

Harvey was always aware of national affairs. He expressed his opinion more than once. At one time, he directed a comment to President Richard Nixon saying,

“Mr. President, I love you, but you are wrong.” This was in reference to the Vietnam War.

While in Chicago, he became concerned with the lack of security, especially at the Argonne National Laboratory, a nuclear test site near Chicago. One evening after midnight, he drove his black Cadillac Fleetwood toward Argonne. It is speculated that he hoped to prove that he could enter the secure area and scratch his signature on some objects proving that the facility was not secure. However, the minute he crossed the barbed wire fence, he was caught in a restricted area. He finally told the officials that he wanted to tell a congressional committee that more security was needed. Actually, a grand jury was set up to indict Harvey, but it did not. It may have been Harvey’s friendship with J. Edgar Hoover that was responsible for trespassing charges being dropped.

The radio show PAUL HARVEY NEWS AND COMMENT was broadcast nationally in 1951, continuing until he died in the 21st century. Harvey was known for his drive, energy, and ambition as he wrote and recorded his show six days a week from studios in Chicago.

As Harvey grew older, he was in great demand. In 2000, Harvey was offered a ten year \$100 million contract with ABC Radio. A few months later, he damaged his vocal cords, and fill-in hosts took over until August 2001.

Fill-ins included Fred Thompson, a former Senator, Harvey’s son Paul Harvey, Jr., Doug Limerick, Paul W. Smith, Gil Gross, Ron Chapman, Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee, Mort Crim, Scott Shannon, and Tony Snow. Actually, Huckabee and Limerick were named Harvey’s successors. However, several weeks later, after Harvey’s death, all broadcasts were cancelled.

Paul Harvey lost his beloved wife “Angel” in 2008. Lynne (Angel) had

been Harvey’s astute business partner and producer. Paul Harvey, at the age of 90, died a few months later on 28 February 2009. Paul Harvey was known for his cheery greeting, “Hello Americans, I’m Paul Harvey. You know what the news is; in a minute, you’re going to hear... the rest of the story.” He ended with “Paul Harvey... Good day.”

Harvey has been named Salesman of the Year, Commentator of the Year, Person of the Year, Father of the Year, and American of the Year. He was also elected to several halls of fame. He was, according to the Gallup polls, on the list of America’s most admired men. He was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the most prestigious civilian award.

Former President George W. Bush commented upon hearing about Harvey’s death, “Laura and I are saddened by the death of Paul Harvey. Paul was a friendly and familiar voice in the lives of millions of Americans. His commentary entertained, enlightened, and informed. Laura and I are pleased to have known this fine man, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.”

Paul Harvey once reflected, “I don’t think of myself as a profound journalist. I think of myself as a professional parade watcher who can’t wait to get out of bed every morning and rush down to the teletypes and pan for gold.” Indeed, Harvey “panned for gold and struck it rich!” *Am*

DOROTHY RIEKE is a retired teacher who has turned to writing. She has written for *Teachers Of Vision*, *Williamette Writers Magazine*, *Family Motor Coaching*, *Acres*, *Ohio Farming*, *Back Home*, and other publications.

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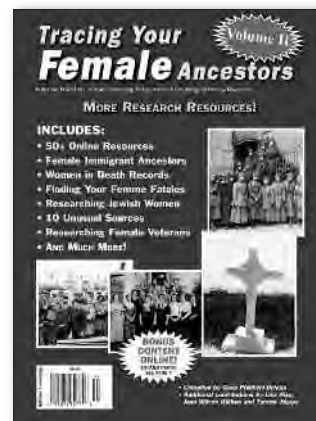
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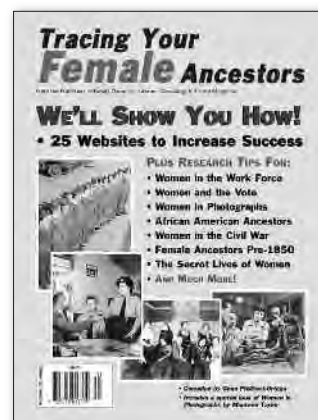
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Dried poppy seed pods, seeds, and stems. *Wikimedia Commons*

LAUDANUM: THE WONDROUS REMEDY

**MELODY AMSEL-ARIELI LOOKS AT THE
HISTORY OF THE USE OF LAUDANUM
DOWN THROUGH THE AGES**

By the 1800s, since few British people had access to professional medical care, self-medication with laudanum was socially acceptable. Vials were readily available at groceries and pubs, where a quarter-ounce of laudanum was had for the price of a pint of ale. This miracle drug was not only cheaper than a doctor's visit, but also available without prescription. So people could indulge freely.

Along with castor oil, camphor, ammonia, and a variety of tried-and-true folk remedies, everyone's medicine chest held powdered or liquid laudanum. Twenty drops, for example, were often taken every two hours for nervousness, profuse sweating, restlessness, or insomnia, until the sufferer fell into blessed sleep. In addition to easing everyday maladies like tooth and ear aches, laudanum also treated life-threatening diseases like yellow fever, malaria, dysentery, and meningitis. If the label came off a bottle or if it was wrongly labeled, however, laudanum could prove life-threatening.



Illustration of *Papaver somniferum*.
Wikimedia Commons

Morphine-rich opium, a latex derived from unripe seeds of the white opium poppy, was prized as a ritual, medicinal, and recreational drug in ancient civilizations.

Paracelsus, a botanist, alchemist, occultist, and physician, re-introduced laudanum to the West in 1527, upon discovery that, dissolved in alcohol, it created a praiseworthy painkiller. He named this intoxicating tincture, which he laced with powdered gold, amber, musk, and crushed pearls, laudanum, from the Latin to praise. Despite its wondrous properties, however, this discovery remained widely unknown.

People continued treating their nervous ailments, chills, fever, aches, and pains with traditional nostrums and home remedies.

In the late 1600s, English physician Thomas Sydenham created a mixture of opium, saffron, sherry, cloves, and cinnamon dissolved in white wine, which he also called laudanum. This bitter tincture, which eased coughs, pain, diarrhea, and a host of other ailments, became a popular cure-all.

Though increasing amounts were needed to achieve the desired effects, few realized that laudanum was addictive. As in any opiate, once dependency occurred, the drug's pleasant effects were replaced by powerful cravings relieved only by higher and higher doses. Because of laudanum's components, quitting resulted in agonizing withdrawal from both opium and alcohol.

Just the same, customers sometimes downed several ounces, their regular doses, in view of dumb-founded apothecaries, druggists, or shopkeepers, with no apparent harm. Others sent youngsters, coins in hand, to replenish their glass-stoppered supplies. Many of these youngsters soothed younger siblings with half-spoonfuls of laudanum straight from the vial, perhaps slipping intoxicating sips for themselves.

During the Victorian Era, physicians, who were often addicted themselves, dispensed or prescribed laudanum in one form or another, to patients of all ages and social classes. Even worse, some treated laudanum withdrawal or overdose symptoms with laudanum itself.

Laudanum reached America as well. Thomas Jefferson, for example, cultivated white poppies, the source of opium, in his Monticello garden (where they flourished through the 1990s), to ease his severe headaches and chronic illness. Meriwether Lewis, leader of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, readily dispensed laudanum to his party as a pain reliever. Later, suffering financial and health decline, the moody, introverted explorer increasingly relied on this wonder drug to relieve his growing melancholia.

Many Americans also enhanced home remedies with laudanum. *Dr. Chase's Recipes* (1870), for example, prescribes a heady

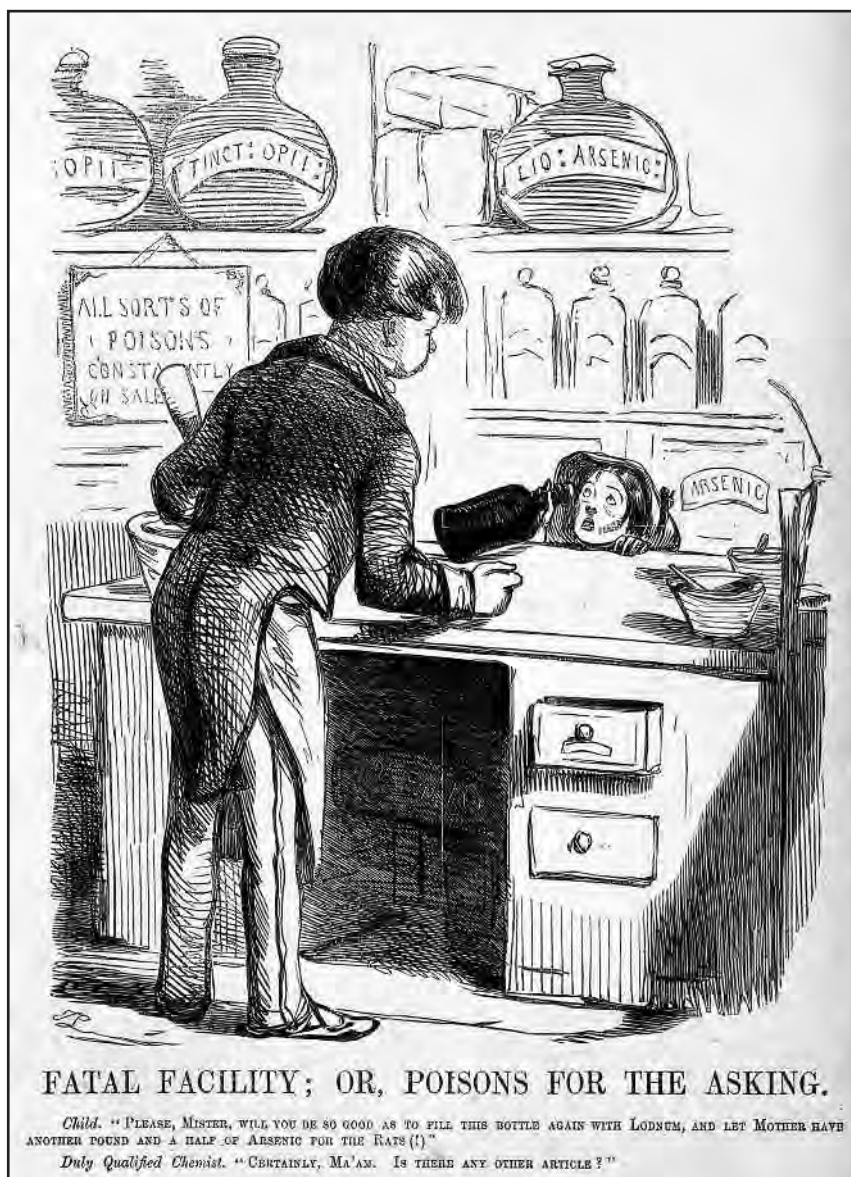
"CHOLERA CORDIAL" of laudanum, chloroform, and spirit of ammonia. For "CHOLIC... [in] HORSES OR PERSONS", it prescribes laudanum, spirit of turpentine, and warm water.

Druggists regularly promoted laudanum-laced patent medicines to cure a variety of ills, including consumption, dysentery, "female complaints", and nervous afflictions. Many, like Green's August Flower, a digestive to promote weight gain, were nearly all laudanum. Others, like Dr. Thompson's Pain Exterminator, which contained laudanum,

chloroform, ether, oil of hemlock, oil of turpentine, and alcohol, were noxious concoctions.

Similar products – household names that inspired trust – calmed newborns' colic, soothed fretfulness, eased sore gums, and treated a litany of other minor childhood ills. If little ones contracted life-threatening smallpox, scarlatina, or the dreaded whooping cough, diseases treated by blood-letting and purging in adults, they were also dosed with "benevolent" laudanum instead.

Since the amount of laudanum from compound to compound



An unscrupulous druggist selling a child arsenic and laudanum.

Wikimedia Commons

varied, dosage was imprecise. Most people did not realize that a drop or two too many, especially when dosing infants, could kill. Or perhaps they did. Twins or babies born out-of-wedlock frequently perished under baffling circumstances. Children who survived laudanum-laced childhoods were typically listless, wrinkled, malnourished, and emaciated, with enlarged heads and joints. Many remained addicted all their lives.

Yet many laudanum advocates observed that laudanum was not only beneficial against disease, but also increased longevity. Because low doses do not impair sensory or intellectual perception, politicians, writers, and artists publicly credited this drug with stimulating creativity.

Though research indicates that most American opium addicts were initially upper-class, Southern white females, this profile changed considerably during the Civil War. During the height of carnage, in addition to quinine, rhubarb, camphor, spirits, and a host of other remedies, army surgeons on both sides handed out tens of millions of laudanum pills against pain. After the war, too, notes *The Opium Habit*, an 1868 volume compiled “for the benefit of opium-eaters”, “Maimed and shattered survivors from a hundred battle-fields, diseased and disabled soldiers released from hostile prisons, anguished and hopeless wives and mothers, made so by the slaughter of those who were dearest to them, have found, many of them, temporary relief from their sufferings in opium (meaning laudanum, opium dissolved in alcohol).” Many remained addicted for the rest of their lives.

The popular and powerful were not exempt. For years, Mary Todd Lincoln, the wife of President



Laudanum 100ml flask.
Wikimedia Commons



Seedbox of *papaver somniferum*, with white milk. Wikimedia Commons

Lincoln, relied on laudanum, sometimes mixed with other mood-altering drugs, to treat her nervousness, migraines, grief, and depression. Despite this – or because of it – she continued to suffer hallucinations, instability, fearfulness, and fits of temper. Finally, a decade after her husband’s assassination and after enduring an insanity trial, Mary Todd Lincoln urgently ordered laudanum with the intent, apparently, to commit suicide. One of the druggists she approached,

who had been warned in advance, offered fake laudanum instead. She downed it on the spot, and immediately asked for more. The day after, she was committed to an insane asylum. (A year later, she was declared sane – and released.)

In 1906, the US Pure Food and Drug Act stipulated that certain addictive drugs, including laudanum, be accurately labeled with contents and recommended dosage. Though these remained available without prescription, their use diminished significantly. When the Harrison Narcotics Tax Act of 1914 limited opiate (and coca) sales to medical prescription alone and subjected them to taxation, unauthorized laudanum consumption in the US effectively ceased.

Despite these restrictions, laudanum is still authorized to treat diarrhea, narcotic withdrawal in babies born to addicted mothers, and severe pain. Since 1970, however, along with other opiates that may lead to severe psychological or physical dependence, it has been severely regulated under the US Controlled Substance Act, Schedule II.

Under Penalty of the Law, qualified pharmacists must dispense all prescriptions, which are non-refillable, and keep a full, written record of each transaction. In addition, all bottles must bear bright red POISON labels. *Am*

MELODY AMSEL-ARIELI is an American-Israeli freelance writer whose articles have appeared in genealogical and historical magazines across the UK, US, and Canada. She is the author of *Between Galicia and Hungary: The Jews of Stropkov (Avotaynu 2002)* and *Jewish Lives: 1750-1950 (Pen & Sword, 2013)*.

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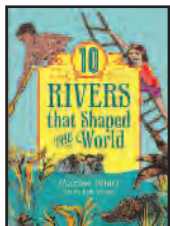
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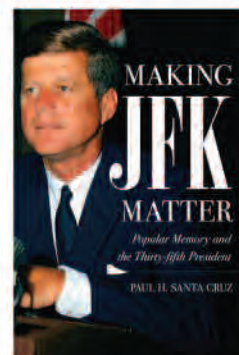
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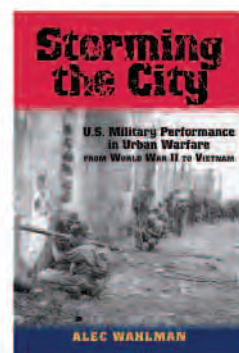
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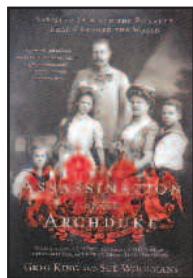
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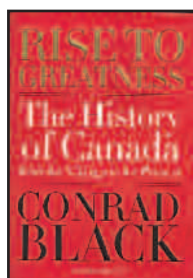


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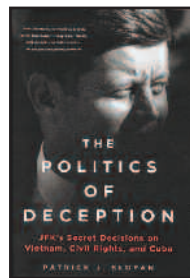
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by Patrick J. Sloyan

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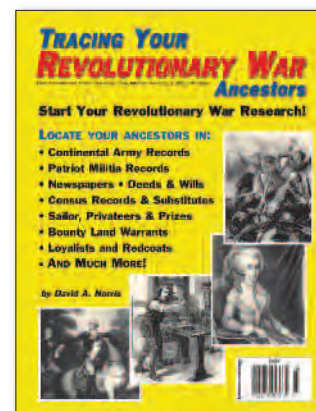
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